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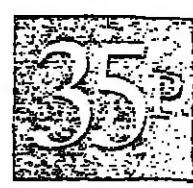
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THE TIMES



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SIMON WALKER

Elton John becomes knight of pop

Honours for the teaching profession

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR



THERE is a knighthood for a headteacher, another becomes a dame and many more receive awards in the New Year Honours today as Tony Blair uses the awards system in the campaign to improve school standards and restore the reputation of teaching.

The Prime Minister has decided to focus his first full-length list on education, with 58 awards at all levels from university principal to street-crossing patroller, and he says today that he is honouring "not only the best of the profession but the profession itself". The move comes after Mr Blair's promise soon after the election to root out bad teachers but also to give a fresh deal to the good ones.

However, Mr Blair follows his predecessors in recognising a long list of celebrities from sport, entertainment and literature; with, as widely predicted, a knighthood for the rock-singer Elton John.

The star's singing of *Candle in the Wind* at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, struck a chord with the public and the record has so far raised £20 million for her memorial fund. Many who played a part in the funeral, including the Welsh Guards officer who organised the carrying of the coffin and the driver of the hearse from Westminster to the Althorp burial ceremony, are singled out for awards in today's list.

Elton John, 50, whose work for Aids charities is also acknowledged by the award, has risen from the depths of drugs and drink addiction to

become accepted by the Establishment. The former Reg Dwight said last night that his joy at the knighthood was "immeasurable". He follows in the footsteps of Sir Cliff Richard and Sir Paul McCartney, becoming the third knight of British pop.

He is joined from the entertainment world by Paula



"Watch out! Here
comes Sir sir!"

Clark, the biggest selling British woman singer (CBE); Annette Crosbie, who plays the long-suffering Mrs Meldrew in television's *One Foot in the Grave* (OBE); Deborah Kerr, 76, who played opposite Yul Brynner in *The King and I* (CBE); and Nicholas Garland, the cartoonist (OBE). Michael Gambon, the actor and star of *The Singing Detective*, is knighted, as are Arthur C. Clarke, the science fiction writer and inspiration of the film *2001*; Richard Rodney Bennett, the composer; and Terence Frost, the painter. Alan Howard, who has played six Shakespearean kings, is appointed CBE.

Heading the sports honours is a knighthood at last for the long-retired footballer Tom Finney, who with Stanley Matthews formed the finest wing pairing England has had. Now 75, he was thrilled to bits, he said last night. From the cricketing past there is an MBE for Alf Gover, 89, the former Surrey and England fast bowler who later ran a cricketing school.

Mark Hughes, the Chelsea and former Manchester United forward, and Jim Leighton, the veteran Scotland goalkeeper, are appointed MBE and there are OBEs for Jenny Pitman, the horse racing trainer, Tess Sanderson, the javelin thrower, and Martin Johnson, captain of the victorious British Lions touring team to South Africa. Jack Rowell, the former England rugby coach, is appointed OBE.

Peter Goss, one of Britain's most experienced racing sail-

ors, is appointed MBE. Last year he turned back in heavy seas during the Vendee Globe non-stop round-the-world race to rescue a fellow competitor, Raphael Dinelli.

There is an OBE for Andy Green, the squadron leader who drove the Thrust supersonic car into the record books in the Nevada Desert last October. He pushed the black ten-ton vehicle through the sound barrier to its limit,

setting an official average of 763.035 mph.

Lynda Roberts, 44, the dedicated and determined teacher who helped a child to come to terms with the murder of her mother and sister is appointed MBE. Mrs Roberts was instrumental in helping Josie Russell, now ten, to recover her powers of speech after the child was traumatised in a hammer attack during which her mother Lin and younger

sister Megan, six, were killed as the three of them were walking home from school.

There is a CBE for Michael Grade, former chief executive of Channel 4. Alan Freeman, 70, one of the early disc-jockey pioneers, is appointed MBE. There is a knighthood for Professor John Pattison, head of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee and an expert on BSE.

Following Labour's practice

in opposition, Mr Blair gives no strictly political honours. However, David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, is appointed vice-councillor.

Chris Patten, former Governor of Hong Kong and former Tory Cabinet minister, is appointed on page 2, col 4

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Lynda Roberts, the determined teacher who helped a child to come to terms with family disaster, is appointed MBE

1997 was the third warmest year recorded in three centuries

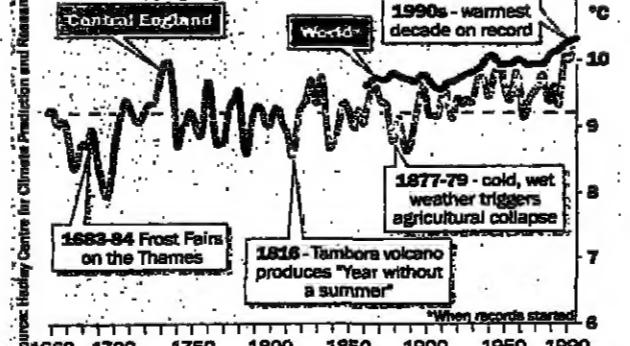
By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THIS year has been the third warmest in England since records began more than 300 years ago, the Meteorological Office said yesterday.

Analysis shows that the mean Central England Temperature for 1997 was 10.5°C (approximately 52°F). This is the temperature measured at four places — Malvern in Worcestershire, Rothamsted in Hertfordshire, Squires Gate, near Blackpool, and Kingway, near Manchester — and averaged over the whole year.

It is the longest-running temperature record in the world, dating from 1659. Since then, the Met Office's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research says, only two years have been hotter — 1990, with a mean of 10.63°C and 1949 (10.62°C).

Dr Paul Mason, Chief Scientist at the Met Office, said: "We are becoming increasingly confident that recent warm-



ing on a global scale is due in part to man-made emissions of greenhouse gases." Rainfall in England and Wales was lower than normal, but not exceptionally so. Until yesterday there had been 844mm of rain, 94 per cent of the long-term average of 896mm.

Over their 300-year history temperatures vary greatly from year to year. A smoother record is obtained by taking

20-year rolling averages, as in the graph, but this still shows wide discrepancies, with some notably cool spells and some warmer ones.

Exceptionally cold winters, such as that of 1683-4, when the Thames froze solid and Frost Fairs were held, are reflected by dips in the rolling average. But a single crazy year like 1740, the coldest on record, contributes only a

small dip because surrounding years were not so cold. The average temperature in 1740 was 6.8°C, compared with 9.2°C for 1739 and 9.3°C for 1741.

The 1810s were a cool decade, marked in 1816 by the "year without a summer", generally attributed to the eruption of the volcano Tambora in Indonesia.

In England, says Dr David Parker of the Met Office, average annual temperatures depend strongly on wind direction. Westerly winds during the winter, the normal pattern, will produce warmer weather. But from time to time persistently high pressure blocks the westerlies as in 1947 and 1963.

This year, he says, only avoided becoming the hottest on record in England because of a cold spell at the beginning of January.

□ The new year is expected to start with gales, probably less severe than those over Christmas.

Forecast, page 22

They also earn who only stand and serve

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON
AND KATHERINE BERGEN

ANYONE at a new year party tonight would do well to observe how the waiter balances a tray of canapés in one hand and pours champagne with the other, all the while maintaining a smile. Then they should go home and do likewise.

For those prepared to act as waiters on New Year's Eve 1999, the rewards will be enormous. Demand is far outstripping supply, and a half-decent waiter ready to desert family and friends can expect to earn up to £1,000

for his night's work. Dance bands with a passable *Lady in Red* in their songbook will also be in the money, charging £15,000 for one night against their usual £2,000.

In London alone, where a normal new year party might see about 10,000 catering staff in action, demand is expected to swell the number tenfold in 1999. A no-frills wine waiter who will earn £5 to £10 an hour this year can expect at least double that plus bonuses running into hundreds of pounds. For head waiters, chief bouncers or head chefs, the rewards will mean that they can start thinking about the Seychelles

as a holiday destination in January 2000.

Since the bigger corporate events demand a ratio of one member of catering staff to 15 guests, party organisers are building the much higher costs into their estimates and passing them on to their clients. William Bartholemew, who runs Julian's, said: "There has been a lot of hype about 1999, but there is no staff. It is hard to get even those who are available to commit. Disc jockeys don't seem to want to work so, no dancing." The problem is exacerbated by the sheer volume of celebrations in Brit-

ain, where millions of tourists are expected to see in the new millennium at Greenwich, home of the prime meridian. Every big venue in the country is already booked up, including some that have not even opened, such as the 75,000-seater Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

But, despite all the bustle, a survey published yesterday by Mumm Champagne reveals that 28 per cent of Britons intend to spend New Year's Eve 1999 at home in front of the television while another 20 per cent are planning a foreign holiday to escape "Dome Fever".



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Trimble hits at Maze inquiry for lack of independence

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE inquiry into the running of Northern Ireland's Maze prison was described as "wholly inadequate" by David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader.

He did not believe the investigation, to be headed by the Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, General Sir David Ramsbotham, was "independent".

He said that Sir David should investigate the prison's operation over recent months rather than concentrating only on Saturday's INLA murder of Billy Wright. "The lax regime in the Maze is not just an operational matter," Mr Trimble told BBC radio.

"We believe it's a matter of policy; that the policy was directed from the Northern Ireland Office; that because the prisoners are alleged to be significant in terms of the decision-making of the Republicans, that everything must be done to make the Republican prisoners feel happy; and that the security just simply became non-existent."

"And (we believe) that this was a result of policy directed by the secretary of state. That's what we want to see investigated."

Random searches, also announced as part of the Government's proposed clampdown on security in the Maze, began yesterday. An inquiry into the escape of IRA prisoners Liam Averill — believed to have made his way out disguised as a woman during a Christmas party for inmates and their relatives — will be extended to include Wright's murder. Wright's family is unhappy with the proposal and wants an independent inquiry into his murder.

Mr Trimble, who met Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, yesterday to discuss deteriorating security, said he had heard that the gun used to kill Wright was smuggled in during the Christmas



The huge funeral procession in Portadown following the coffin of Billy Wright, the notorious loyalist who was murdered in the Maze prison

party. He said: "Several prison officers have alleged that during the party from which a prisoner escaped disguised as a woman, the chief governor was engaged on the bouncy castle at the time that this happened. It's also being said to us that the relatives of the children who came to that party were not searched on the way in."

A prison spokesman said that Martin Mogg, who became Maze governor in October, had briefly attended the children's party on the day of Averill's escape but had not played on the bouncy castle, instead in the gym to amuse the children.

Mark Healy, the national chairman of the Prison Officers Association, renewed calls for resignations and demanded that Alan Shannon, head of the Northern Ireland prison service, stand down.

"To have a situation where a prisoner is murdered within a high security jail and nobody, it seems, is prepared to shoulder the blame is not an acceptable position," said Mr Healy.

But Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and her ministers have repeatedly said that they do not consider the murder a resigning matter.

Sir John Wheeler, the Tory former Northern Ireland Security Minister, said that nobody should be made a scapegoat for failures at the

prison. He said that it was a very difficult prison to run as it is the most vigorously inspected by groups like Amnesty International.

He said: "The prisoners are part of the political talks process in this sense that those who represent them in the talks process — the Provisional IRA/Sinn Fein or the loyalist groups ... are constantly demanding changed and improved conditions for them.

It's against that backdrop that this prison, the Maze, has to operate. It's a very difficult institution to manage."

Mr Trimble said he was somewhat unimpressed after being made a member of the Privy Council in the honours list.

He said: "I would not attach any great significance to it. It comes with the rations."

His predecessor as leader of the party, Lord Molyneux, was also made a Privy Councillor while leader.

Letters, page 19



David Trimble, left, said the inquiry headed by Sir David Ramsbotham lacked independence

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Knighthood is late reward for vilified library architect

BY DALYA ALBERG, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE architect of the British Library awarded a knighthood in the honourable blazon at his building by Gerald Kaufman, David Mellor and the Prince of Wales for closing down his practice.

Colin St John Wilson said that their attacks caused work at his firm to dry up: "It was pretty surprising not to have been shortlisted or invited for any of the hundreds and hundreds of lottery projects and millennium projects, but one was seen as a bad bet for raising further funding." By last spring, his company was forced into liquidation.

While the knighthood offers some solace, the wounds are still raw. The Emeritus Professor of Architecture at Cambridge University, who was appointed to the project in 1962, cannot forget Mr Kaufman — as chairman of the select committee inquiry into the library — saying the building was as glamorous as a public lavatory. Nor is it

easy to get over the Prince likening the design to "an academy for secret police" or the painful experience of switching on the radio and hearing Mr Mellor say: "The problem is he's no bloody good as an architect."

He recalled: "I just turned on the car radio to receive that one. The extraordinary thing about Kaufman is that the select committee he chaired did not have the design of the library on its agenda. It was to do with the management."

"No evidence on the design was called for. I was not asked to speak or questioned. It was quite extraordinary to open his report saying it was the ugliest building in the world. That was totally gratuitous. I'm so flabbergasted at the general irresponsibility of statements like that."

At the time he had refrained from speaking out. "You don't gain too much by getting angry. People aren't interested in someone complaining away. I prefer a building to do

fered at the hands of his contemporaries, being fired before he had completed St Paul's. The problem with a 1970s building, said Professor Wilson, was that "inevitably 20 years later it doesn't contain any of the latest gimmicks of the 1990s... I feel I'm on a different timescale. I see it as par for the course. It is simply the way the Brits treat architects and big projects."

He believes the critics were judging it before they had even seen it. "I can understand part of it because the nostalgia for the Round Reading Room is perfectly explicable. I'm gratified at the number of people now working in the new building who now prefer it."

The speaking for me, I believe it will."

What he most regretted about having to close his practice was that a first-rate team had to be dispersed: "There were younger people in it who certainly had a right to move on to new projects."

But, he observed, history seemed to be repeating itself: even Christopher Wren suffered at the hands of his contemporaries, being fired before he had completed St Paul's. The problem with a 1970s building, said Professor Wilson, was that "inevitably 20 years later it doesn't contain any of the latest gimmicks of the 1990s... I feel I'm on a different timescale. I see it as par for the course. It is simply the way the Brits treat architects and big projects."

He believes the critics were judging it before they had even seen it. "I can understand part of it because the nostalgia for the Round Reading Room is perfectly explicable. I'm gratified at the number of people now working in the new building who now prefer it."

The historian Lady Antonia Fraser and novelist David Lodge are among leading figures who have given their wholehearted backing to the building, which opened last month.

The knighthood is another boost for him and will help to raise the profile of his new firm, Colin St John Wilson Associates.



Wilson: shocked by virulence of attacks

Teaching profession honoured

Continued from page 1
comes a Companion of Honour, as does Professor Eric Hobsbawm, the political and social historian.

Mr Patten said yesterday: "I always regarded the job I had to do in Hong Kong as a privilege and an honour. But obviously, I am pleased that it has been recognised in this way."

The decision to pinpoint a key area such as education for awards marks part of Mr Blair's campaign to modernise the honours system and will indicate a trend for future lists. The Queen's Birthday Honours next summer is expected to focus on

health, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the health service.

Leslie Geoffrey Hampton, of Northcote School, Wolverhampton, becomes the first serving state school headmaster to be knighted. Within two years of his appointment he turned round a school that had failed an Ofsted inspection. Similarly, Tamsyn Imlison, head teacher of Hampsstead School, Camden, is appointed DBE after introducing wide-ranging initiatives to improve standards in her school. Patricia Colbarone, former headmistress of a Hackney school whose standards rose substantially under her leadership, is also appointed DBE.

Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the committee of inquiry into higher education, is one of four new life peers, the others being Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary; Paul Hamlyn, the publisher; and the Right Rev David Sheppard, former Bishop of Liverpool and, in earlier days, an England opening batsman.

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Gun raid exercise police to get stress payout

BY ADRIAN LEE

THREE police officers who were held at gunpoint for almost an hour without realising they were involved in a training exercise organised by colleagues are to receive compensation.

Police constables Stephen Fearn, Robert Crisp and Mark Lowe responded to a 999 call from a member of the public who also believed he was witnessing a genuine emergency. For 50 minutes they were threatened with shotguns and feared they would be killed.

The officers were later found to be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. More than four years after the incident, in Barking, east London, the Metropolitan Police have accepted liability in all three cases. PC Lowe has settled out of court but the High Court will set a figure for damages for his colleagues. All three are still serving officers.

The men were on duty in April 1993 when they answered the emergency call. They arrived at a security depot to find "armed raiders" holding hostages and were themselves taken captive.

"The whole thing was a complete cock up," Ian Walker, their solicitor, said yesterday. "They were not told that the whole thing was an exercise. They believed that other police officers were already being held hostage — they saw shotguns pointed at them — and that they too were going to be shot at. It was extremely distressing and frightening."

Mr Walker said the exercise had been organised by a specialist police unit but the local police station had not been informed.

"Communications were dire," he said. "Afterwards, no one even told these men that they were sorry. They had been terrified but they were just expected to get back to work."

Those involved in the exercise believed the three officers were also part of the simulated armed raid. At one stage the constables, who are in their 20s and 30s, saw the "gunmen" talking to a police officer and believed the robbery was an "inside job".

The officers all declined to discuss the case. A police spokesman confirmed the 1993 incident. In December 1995 the Yard received a writ from PC Lowe claiming post-traumatic stress. It was settled out of court in November without any admission of liability.

The Yard said that the two other officers are also making claims after writs were issued earlier this year.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Cunningham: review

Drift-net season may be changed

Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, is considering shortening the season for drift-net fishing off northeast England to improve the spring runs of salmon up Scottish and English rivers.

Dr Cunningham, who enjoys fly-fishing on the Derwent in Cumbria, where he represents Copeland, says that the decline in river catches of salmon will be among issues examined in a review of fishing law in the new year. Interviewed in the January issue of *Trust and Salmon* magazine, Dr Cunningham says: "I know there is a very strong feeling that netting has been damaging to spring runs of fish. I am considering what action to take."

Lost boy found

A British boy who was snatched by his father two years ago after a custody dispute has been found by police in Benidorm. Gavin Gill, 9, disappeared from his home in Wolverhampton during a shopping trip with his father, Tony. His mother, Yvonne, who was granted custody after separating from her husband, flew to Spain last night.

Migrant alert

Immigration officials were put on full alert last night after the Home Office disclosed that 63 illegal immigrants had been found in lorries in the past week. Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, said there appeared to be "concerted attempts to breach immigration controls being orchestrated over Christmas by crime bosses abroad".

Sea rescue

Helicopters from the US Coast Guard and Air Force were helping in the rescue of 28 crew from the British-owned cargo ship, the *Merchant Patriot*, foundering in heavy seas off Florida. The crew had to jump overboard to be rescued because heavy waves and high winds made it impossible to lift them from the decks. No injuries were reported.

Death inquiry

A surgeon has been suspended from duty at Homerton Hospital in Hackney, east London, while police investigate the death of a woman who developed internal bleeding during a routine operation. The family of Elif Aksu, 34, from North London, said they hoped it would provide an explanation of how the woman died.

Art of skiing

More than 200 travel posters depicting the development of some of Europe's most popular winter sports resorts are to be sold by Christie's in February. The pictures trace changing equipment, techniques and fashions from 1890 to 1970. One shows a woman skiing down an uncrowded mountain in Chamonix in full Edwardian dress.

Holed out

A dog was dug out of a rabbit hole after being trapped for 12 days. Kebas, a miniature dachshund, was found by a farmer who heard barking. The dog's owners, Otto and Tina Faithorne of Westleigh, near Taunton, Somerset, spent two hours digging her out. She was being fed on water, glucose and turkey to restore her weight.

Lost in the passage of time



Andrew Cotterell outside 18th-century Southill House with his wife

Simon de Bruxelles reports on a mystery

that begins underneath a country house

THE secrets of a Somerset country house have turned into an Enid Blyton adventure for the new owner and his children. A series of clues have led to a mysterious network of tunnels, and no one knows where they lead.

The first clue for Andrew Cotterell and his wife Tracey was the long-forgotten memoir of a 19th century servant, Edwin Cox, whose recollections of life at Southill House included being sent down to explore a tunnel uncovered by workmen when he was nine.

As the Cotterells wondered where the tunnels might be, a cow grazing in the field beyond their croquet lawn stumbled across a previously unknown passageway when it caved in. It leads from a sealed entrance in the cellar.

Now the underground maze is fascinating historians, the Cotterells and their sons, aged seven, five and three. Mr Cotterell said: "Whenever their friends come round, they head straight for the cellars to explore. As far as they are concerned, it's like something out of an Enid Blyton adventure."

The £1.2 million mansion, built in the 18th century, stands in ten acres of grounds on an estate between Frome and Shepton Mallet. It was earlier the country seat of a family linked with the Duke of Monmouth, who tried to claim the throne in 1685. This holds out the possibility that the tunnels were used as escape passages. Their original use may have been as medieval culverts or for storage access.

Mr Cotterell, who runs a computer company, bought the 15-bedroom mansion two years ago. He was aware of two winding tunnels leading off the vaulted cellars which appeared to be far older than the house, and there are signs of other passageways still to be found.

The most recently discov-

ered passage has been resealed until it can be properly explored. Built of stone, it is about 5ft high with a floor of beaten earth, pitted with marks of dripping water. Mr Cotterell said: "A little way beyond where it caved in, the tunnel has been sealed with stone. Like the others, it appears to have been built prior to the main house."

"There is evidence of medieval arched doorways and windows in the cellar of a much earlier style, and it's possible that the present property was built on the site of something far older. I intend to explore further, even if it means taking a sledge hammer to the obstruction."

The estate was the country seat of the Strodes, whose archives record that Southill was visited by Monmouth in the summer of 1685, after his return from exile. The rebellion of the illegitimate son of Charles II ended in bitter defeat, but initially he had received considerable support in the West Country, where in a short time, he had raised an army of 7,000 men.

After Monmouth's execution, King James II exacted terrible revenge on the Duke's followers. He dispatched the notorious Judge Jeffreys, the

Hanging Judge, to oversee the Bloody Assizes. More than 250 people were hung, drawn and quartered. A further 550 were deported to forced labour on the plantations of the West Indies. The brutality of the reprisals left a lingering resentment and led, indirectly, to the king's overthrow during the Glorious Revolution three years later.

Rumours persist that the tunnels under Southill were bolt holes for supporters of the Duke of Monmouth to flee through, but many Strode family papers have been lost and no record of the tunnels' original purpose remains.

Southill's facade was rebuilt by the architect John Wood the Younger, responsible for some of the Georgian buildings in Bath, including the Royal Crescent. Little remains of the original property and there is no record of the site having been occupied before the 17th century.

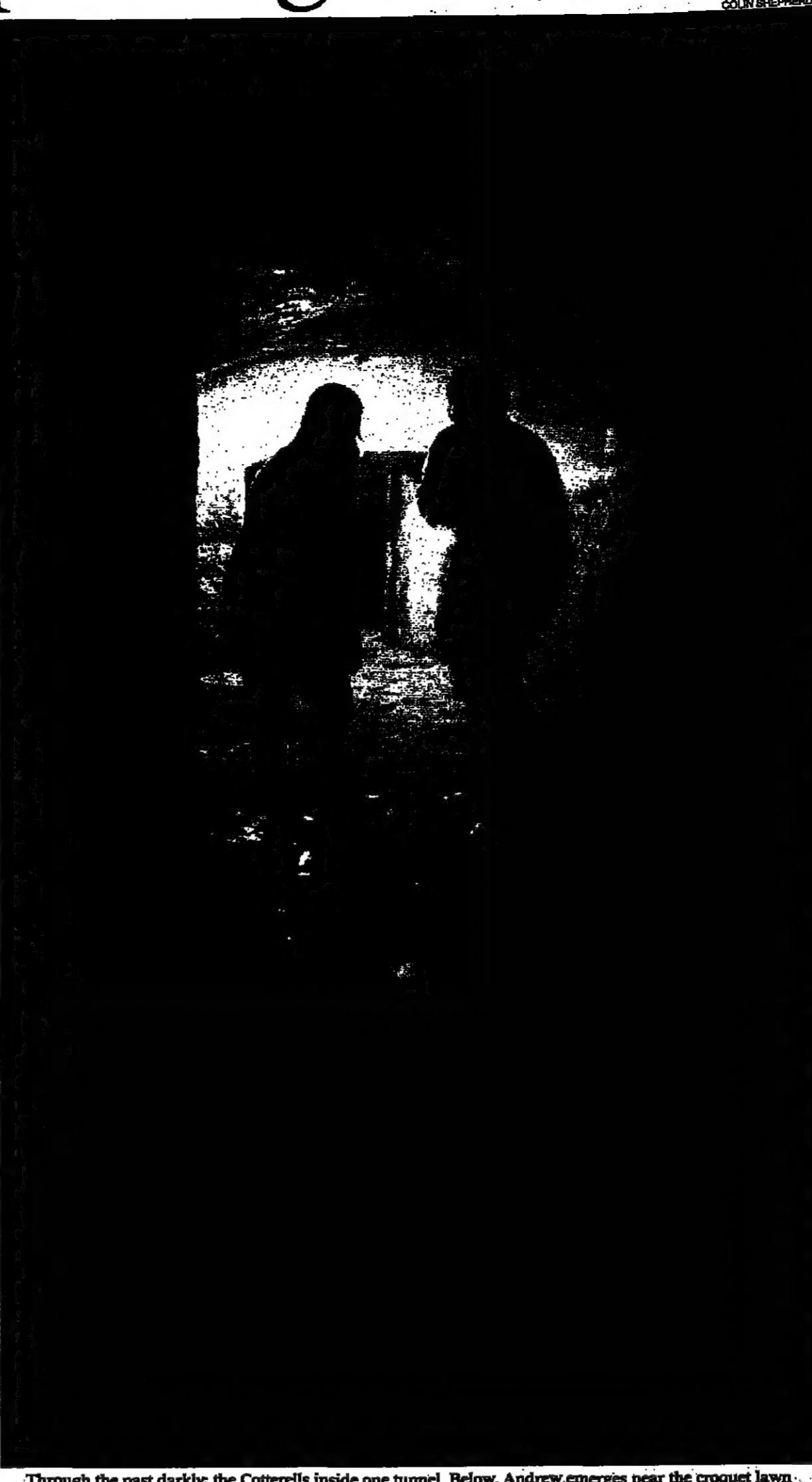
Robin Bush, a Somerset historian and a member of Charmel 4's Time Team, said: "There is something in the British psyche which makes us fascinated by underground features, whether they exist or not. In most cases, ancient tunnels are nothing more exciting than medieval drains but these ones certainly sound like they warrant further investigation."

The Southill tunnels have caught the attention of historians from Frome, five miles away, who have been investigating their own warren of underground passages. There is evidence of passages under the town linking several older buildings, but their purpose is obscure. One local historian, David MacGregor, said:

"Several people believe that they were medieval culverts but, as far as I am concerned, they are far too extensive for such a simple explanation.

The labour and expense that went into them would have been phenomenal."

Monmouth: supporters paid a high price



Through the past darkly: the Cotterells inside one tunnel. Below, Andrew emerges near the croquet lawn

Servant boy feared ghost in tunnel

GHOSTLY legends also surround Southill House, and receive a mention in the unpublished "record book" of Edwin Charles Cox, the former servant. It appears that he was sent into the tunnel because others were too afraid.

He wrote the memoir in his old age for his descendants, who now live in the United States and who gave a copy to a previous owner of the estate. Born in 1838, Cox recalled ten years he spent as a servant at the house. He began work at the age of seven, carrying vegetables in the kitchen gardens for sixpence a week.

Although there were numerous ghostly stories associated with the house, he says that he was never afraid of the supernatural until the day an ancient vault was discovered in the grounds.

"I am not superstitious and was

generally on hand to enter in some unused room, cellar or unexplored vault when no one else would enter," he recalled. "Once, some labourers were excavating in the park about a quarter of a mile from the house when they came upon some brick work several feet below the surface which on opening proved to be a very large vault."

The old Baron [Southill's owner] was immediately sent for, but neither he nor anyone else could form any idea of what was down there. And no one could be found to satisfy their curiosity on the subject and good reason why.

"One of the old Barons had committed suicide and his spirit becoming troublesome, had been banished by 12 clergymen and walled up in one of the vaults below the cellars. Anyway, no one could be

persuaded down but the offer of a half crown overcame my fear. Together with a lighted candle, I started on my voyage of discovery."

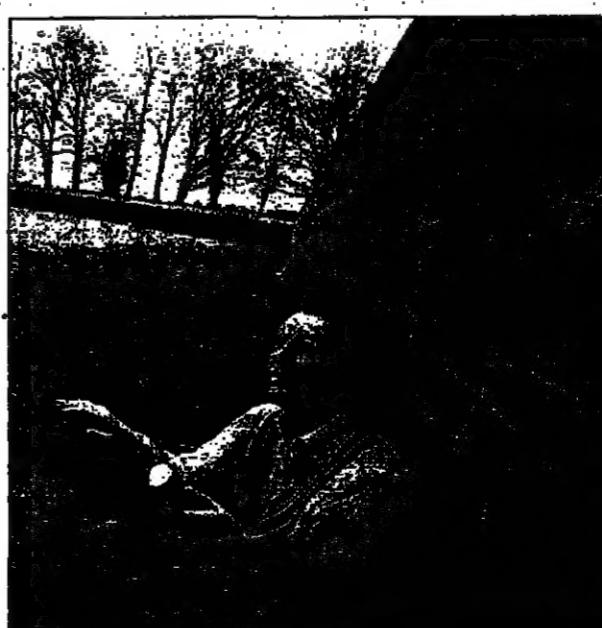
The place was a passage large enough to drive a load through, arched over the top and a clear stream of water ran through the centre. I started in the direction of the house, scrutinizing every object that lay in my road, not knowing but that I might fall into some hole or trap, but I found nothing of consequence excepting some old pieces of furniture and bottles, the like of which no one there had ever seen before."

"I kept along for what seemed to me an endless distance, until I was stopped by a massive stone wall and while trying to find an opening, I accidentally dropped my candle. Having no matches, I was left in total darkness. I was thoroughly frightened

and the thought of the terrible tale referred to above by no means mended matters. I groped my way back by the wall to the opening where they were all waiting with the greatest anxiety, fearing something bad had befallen me."

The boy was sent back with a hammer to hit the wall while his employer listened in the cellars. "As soon as he was satisfied that it led to the cellars, he had it closed up without exploring the other end, and so I was the only person living who had been down in the vault, and I don't think it has ever been opened since."

Cox records that two locals in their 70s told him that their fathers had talked about a secret tunnel leading from the house. He said: "It was supposed to have been used as a hiding place, also a means of escape in the time of the old feudal wars."



If you really want to go to hell, take the M25

BY RICHARD DUCE

A SURVEY of traffic blackspots will raise few eyebrows among frustrated drivers whose route takes the M25, London's orbital "relief" road is now officially the most congested in Britain.

Three stretches of the M25, opened by Margaret Thatcher in 1986, head a list of "roads to hell" from a Road Haulage Association survey of its members, followed by the M5-M6 interchange northwest of Birmingham. Steven Norris, the former Conservative Transport Minister and now director-general of the association, said yesterday that the list showed investment in the national road network was desperately needed.

Mr Norris said: "As an organisation we are all for the 'greening' of transport, with more freight on to rail and more car users turning to public transport. But the inescapable fact is that, if we are to move towards an environmentally sustainable and economically competitive transport system, we have got to put investment into the road network." He added that the Department of Transport had

been the first to bear the brunt of cuts when money had to be found for other government spending plans.

Confederation of British Industry estimates put the annual cost of traffic jams, in lost

time, wasted fuel and increased pollution, at £15 billion a year. Mr Norris said: "Increased traffic, particularly on the M62 and M80, was the result of an improving economy in the North and Scotland.

His latest action brings to seven the number of Middles-

brough CID officers either suspended or moved back to uniform since the centre of a corruption inquiry – for allegedly taking suspended officers under investigation to the Middlesbrough CID Christmas party.

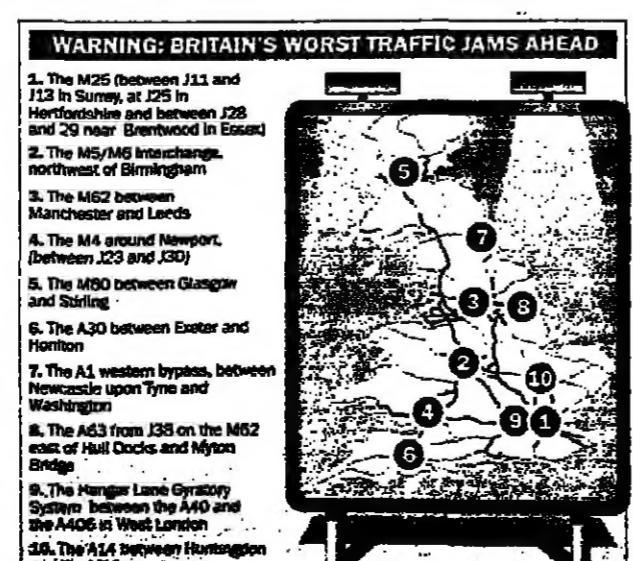
The two detective constables have been returned to uniform duties with the Cleveland force. Detective Constables Lou Matthews and Ben Houchen have denied they invited the officers to the party in contravention of an order from their district commander, Chief Superintendent Graham Maxwell.

His latest action brings to

information to the media and "alleged activity which could be construed as criminal". He strenuously denies the allegations. Earlier this month his right-hand man, Detective Sergeant John McPherson, was put back on the beat in the neighbouring division of Stockton.

When DCs Whitehead, Allen and Shepherd turned up at the Christmas party in the Potter's Bar disco in Middlesbrough last week, Mr Maxwell, who was also there, was reported to be furious. He had issued specific instructions that none of the suspended officers should attend.

The party was attended by



7

Uninvited party guests put detectives back in uniform

BY PAUL WILMINSON

TWO more officers have been transferred from the "zero tolerance" police unit at the centre of a corruption inquiry – for allegedly taking suspended officers under investigation to the Middlesbrough CID Christmas party.

The two detective constables have been returned to uniform duties with the Cleveland force. Detective Constables Lou Matthews and Ben Houchen have denied they invited the officers to the party in contravention of an order from their district commander, Chief Superintendent Graham Maxwell.

His latest action brings to

more than 30 people, including Detective Superintendent Adrian Roberts, Mr Mallon's temporary replacement, and CID uniform and civilian staff. One guest, who did not want to be named, said: "When the three officers turned up, they were well received. However, Maxwell and Roberts looked stony-faced. They weren't very happy."

The two officers were called to a face-to-face meeting with Mr Maxwell the next day and told they were back in uniform. Yesterday a police spokesman confirmed that Matthews and Houchen had been removed from the CID.

JPJ/10/15/98

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cancer deaths down over 10 years

Deaths from cancer fell over the past year to their lowest level for ten years, according to the Cancer Research Campaign. The fall is despite a corresponding rise in the number of people developing cancer. Better treatments, detection and screening have helped in a fall of more than 3,000 deaths since the early 1990s, including reductions in lung cancer and breast cancer. However, skin and prostate cancer deaths remained causes for concern. John Toy, of the campaign, said: "Although it is too early to predict a consistent trend, these figures are very encouraging."

Everyman Appeal, page 6

Fall from flyover

A woman firefighter was in a serious condition in hospital yesterday after falling 50ft from a flyover while trying to rescue two victims of a road crash. Sarah Cotton, 30, was giving first aid to the trapped female passenger of a Blood Transfusion Service lorry on the flyover near Shoreham, West Sussex.

Rail alert cash

More than 1,000 people forced from their homes for two days because of a chemical alert have been offered £50 compensation by freight train operators. An inquiry has begun into the derailment at Cadoudal, South Wales, on Saturday of a wagon containing 60 tonnes of inflammable material.

Mixed schools

Seven out of ten parents want a mixed school for their children, according to an NOP survey of 1,000 people for *Bella* magazine. However, 9 per cent of parents in Yorkshire and Scotland favoured single-sex schools, compared with almost 25 per cent of parents in East Anglia, the South and the South East.

Burglars alarmed

Burglars dialled 999 after becoming trapped in a flat in Bradford while they were trying to rob. Firemen rescued one trapped on a first-floor window ledge while colleagues battered down the front door. Three men pushed past just before the police arrived. They fled empty-handed as the flat was unoccupied.

Lifeboat rescues

More than half of all lifeboat rescues in 1997 were of people in pleasure-craft or windsurfers. An average of three people were rescued each day, according to figures from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. A survey of sea users showed that one in five did not check the weather forecast before they set sail.

Grave mystery

Archaeologists are trying to find out why some of the graves found at a Saxon dig in Southampton point the wrong way. Four are Christian burials, aligned east to west. But another is the opposite way round and a sixth faces north. One theory is that they are earlier pagan burials.

Stylish serpent

A man found a 2ft snake in his jumper. Mike Doran, 40, a hospital cleaner, from Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester, was rescued by his partner Dianne Palin, 36, who trapped it in a bucket and called the police. They returned the harmless Florida king snake, called Sally, to the previous tenant.

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As you can see, we're doing more than ever to make banking, and therefore life, a little easier for our customers.

It's like a new year resolution. Only we'll actually be sticking to it.



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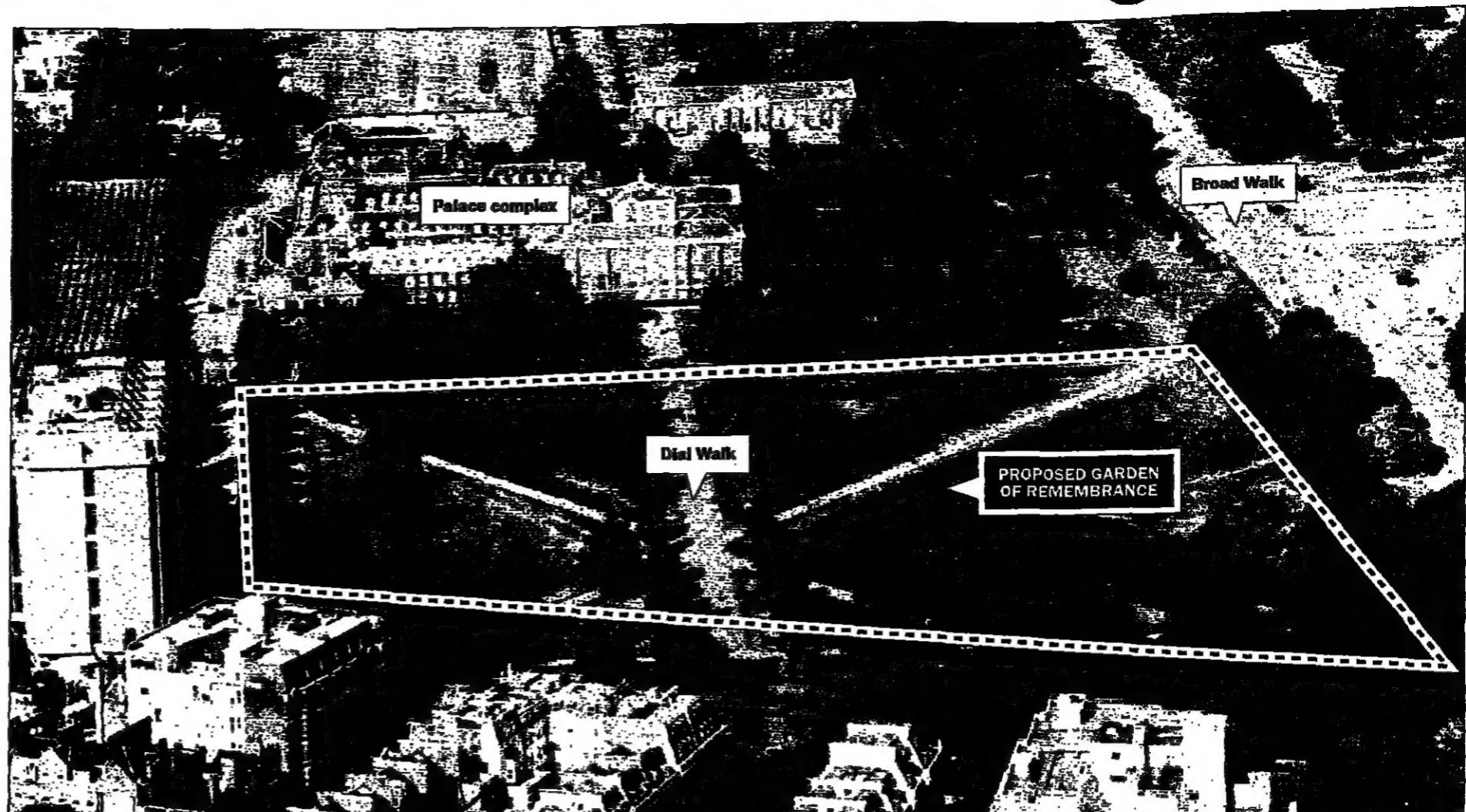
Because life's complicated enough.

Diana memorial could be £10m garden



The floral shrine to the Princess created by mourners

From over 7,000 proposals, a floral tribute emerges as the favourite way to remember, reports Michael Horsnell



A £10 MILLION garden of remembrance outside the Princess of Wales's Kensington Palace home, with highly scented plants for the blind, poetry readings, fountains and pools, emerged yesterday as the most likely monument to her.

A detailed proposal has been put by David Welch, chief executive of the Royal Parks Agency, to the committee set up by the Chancellor to devise a permanent memorial. The Princess of Wales Memorial Committee will meet early next month to consider over 7,000 suggestions but the proposed 16-

acre site within Kensington Gardens is widely considered the best option. The area was turned into a huge impromptu shrine in the days after her death four months ago.

The landscape architects Colvin and Mogeridge of Farndon, Oxfordshire, have been asked by the Royal Parks Agency to prepare a "design concept" embodying Mr Welch's proposals, which would cater for five million visitors a year.

Where the money for the memorial, and estimated annual running costs of £75,000, will come from

remains uncertain. But the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, which is an entirely separate charitable body, will be asked to provide support.

Mr Welch, whose agency manages the eight royal parks around London, said in his report to the committee that since the Princess's death the area south of Kensington Palace, which she often used, had been visited by tens of thousands of people. "We believe the gardens will remain a focal point for visitors wishing to remember the Princess in future years." He added: "The

whole proposal would produce a new national asset, hugely increase public advantage from an existing one, be thoroughly well used and valuable, and be generally esteemed by the public."

His proposals include longer opening hours with the help of subtle lighting to create a moonlit effect, perhaps by extending the gas lighting used in Hyde Park.

The spiked railings, some of which had to be taken out before the funeral to allow safe movement because of the huge numbers of onlookers, could be removed from

the whole length of West Carriage Drive on the boundary of the gardens.

The new flower garden in front of the palace would be planted with herbs, roses and flowering shrubs and dotted with fountains, ponds, and statues. The soil would be enriched by the compost made from the millions of flowers laid in the royal parks in honour of the Princess.

Mr Welch adds: "Its design and planting could convey a sense of joyfulness and if this was done, it would be vibrant with the liveliness

of many visitors and provide a fitting climax to the pilgrim's way that is already establishing itself along the route of the funeral procession."

Evening readings, perhaps commissioned through the Poetry Society, and art exhibitions would also add to the atmosphere. Other facilities would include a children's area and places where personal tributes might be left.

The garden site, straddling Dial Walk, where mourners laid flowers after the Princess's death, has become a trampled tract of grass.

The original, elaborate pattern gardens of William and Mary were modified by Queen Anne and eventually removed by Queen Anne and returned to grassland in the 18th century.

To keep down costs, shrubs, roses and perennials would be preferred to annual flowers, and mulches would be used to curb weeds. In keeping with the Princess's devotion to the disadvantaged, full access would be provided for people with disabilities and there would be many scented plants for the blind.

Police hope to jog revellers' memories a year after murder

By DANIEL McGROARY



ALONG every step of the route which Nicola Dixon followed last New Year's Eve there will be posters of the attractive 17-year-old A-level student reminding revellers that her killer has not been caught. Her family fear that, a year on, he never will be.

Nicola had set out to walk the half a mile from a hospital social club to a party to meet friends when she was sexually assaulted and bludgeoned to death by the parish church in Sutton Coldfield.

Detectives admit that, despite a £23,000 reward, televised reconstructions, emotional appeals from Nicola's parents and a year-long inquiry that has taken nearly a thousand DNA samples, they are baffled as to who killed the student they call "the perfect daughter".

Detective Chief Inspector Kelvin Roberts, who still leads the inquiry, said: "We don't want to scare women into thinking this man will choose New Year's Eve again, but some woman — his wife, mother or girlfriend — must know who he is."

The poster campaign in this prosperous Birmingham suburb is a last appeal to partygoers who, police believe, a year ago must have heard

Nicola's cries as she was dragged from an alleyway into the garden of a deserted rectory.

They are to investigate a number of men working abroad who they know were in Sutton Coldfield for last year's holidays. But the belief is that Nicola's killer was a local.

Her mother, Rita, said: "New year is no longer something to look forward to. Nicola was probably attacked at about 10 o'clock on New Year's Eve. While most people are celebrating, we will be enduring an awful vigil while we wait for 10 to strike."

Police will be asking revellers for any information they have. Mr Roberts said: "I find it hard to believe that somebody doesn't know."

They are aware of the unease in the community, with women reluctant to walk alone after dark. Neighbours remain convinced that the killer knew that the town's rector had moved just three days before the murder from the house which runs alongside Trinity Hill, a dinky but popular short cut.

Walburga Burrell, whose flat is near the alleyway, said: "Women won't walk there at night now as the man must have picked the one place around here where he knew he could not be seen."

Some witnesses remember seeing a man, about 5ft 5in tall and in his early 20s, in a dark overcoat and Doc Marten boots, following a few yards behind Nicola as she stumbled on snow-covered roads that night.

Police cannot be certain if she was stalked or whether her attacker was waiting behind the high wooden gates of the house on Trinity Hill. Nicola was hit about the head and face with what is thought to have been a brick and then sexually assaulted. Mr Roberts said: "We believe the whole attack was over in a matter of minutes."

A NEW line in self-assembly furniture is taking shape in South Wales. It takes rather longer than even the most difficult DIY kit — a chair can take six years — but that is because the furniture is assembling itself.

Saplings have been planted to grow into the right shape along plywood frames with joints forming where the shoots fuse together. The furniture garden is the idea of Christopher Cattie, a lecturer in furniture design, who says: "Anyone with a little skill and patience could produce more or less what they want in their own back garden."

Mr Cattie, 62, who teaches at Buckinghamshire University College, has planted three rows of chairs and tables as part of a PhD in furniture design with the Royal College of Art. The Groundworks Foundation, which encourages commun-

ity enterprises in deprived areas, provided the land at Aberdare, as well as volunteer helpers. The first chair should be ready for picking at the end of next year.

The technique was once used by the ancient Greeks and Egyptians, and Mr Cattie says he has been approached by a manufacturer.

"This is viable and environmentally friendly. You sit back for four years for a stool and six years for a chair."

Missing dome hits launch of Website

By DOMINIC KENNEDY



Long wait for a seat as garden grows furniture

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

IMAGINE having a motorcycle constantly revving up in the middle of your house and a power drill on the go. The effect is much the same as that being inflicted on the Orca whales who return year after year to Johnstone Strait, a narrow channel off British Columbia in Canada.

The Orca, known as killer whales, communicate acoustically. So when hundreds of motorised fishing boats, tourist boats and liners cross-cut their habitat, the noise can be devastating. Several whales have even been hit and injured by passing boats.

The area off British Columbia is one of the easiest places in the world to see Orca in their natural habitat. The whales are immensely sociable creatures. They live in

families which stay together constantly, throughout the year, almost never splitting up. Human interest in them is understandable but is making their lives a misery.

Orcalab, based in British Columbia, is devoted to the study of the whales. Paul Spong and Helena Symonds run the centre, which tracks the whales off the coast and studies their language. In the past year, they have also provided the tourist boats with precise information on the whales' whereabouts with a daily e-mail. This helps to lessen the frantic search which takes place every day when whales are in the area.

As a next step, Orcalab, with the help of the Born Free Foundation, one of the charities nominated this year by The Times for its Christmas

appeal, is trying to bring together all the water-users in the area where the whales live and formulate a set of best-practice rules to control traffic.

Kim Wood, who looks after Orcalab for the foundation, says: "We want to be peacekeepers on the water and bring together the logging and fishing interests as well as the sports fishermen and tourist people and agree on how to protect the whales who do, after all, provide many livelihoods in the area."

Negotiating the release of Orcas held in captivity fits in with the foundation's principal aim of creating the most natural habitat possible for animals held in captivity or having them responsibly released back into the wild. Whales which should be living

for well over 50 years in the wild have an average lifespan of five years in captivity.

Orcalab needs funds to maintain its projects tracking and studying the whales off British Columbia. The plan to establish rules for those using the waters inhabited by the whales will require seed money of just a few thousand pounds to implement.

Corky, an Orca who has been a star attraction at Sea World in Florida for nearly 28 years, comes from a family under observation by Dr Spong and Orcalab. "Her mother is still alive in the wild," says Kim Wood. "Corky has even retained her whale dialect. The first whale to get back into the wild would have a big price on its head in terms of tourist interest, but if done properly it would be by far the best thing for the whale."

Everyman Appeal

I wish to donate £ _____ to the Institute of Cancer Research's Everyman appeal

Method of payment (please tick box)

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Please make cheques payable to Everyman appeal or charge Visa/MasterCard/Delta Card no. _____

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If more than the £40,000 required for the gene sequencer is raised through the Christmas appeal, it will go directly to other vital prostate cancer research at the Institute of Cancer Research.

Sound practice could help whales to live in peace and quiet

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Cancer deaths down over 10 years

Codebreaker names Bard's 'Fair Youth'

Shakespearean mystery may be solved, reports Nigel Hawkes

A RETIRED physicist believes he has solved a puzzle that has baffled Shakespearean scholars for generations.

The identity of Mr W.H., the "only begeter" of Shakespeare's sonnets, is hidden in the enigmatic dedication in the first printed edition of the poems, says Dr John Rollett. The dedication, awkwardly phrased and obscure in meaning, is a cipher containing the name Henry Wriothesley.

Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton, was known to have been a patron of Shakespeare, who dedicated two narrative poems to him. The fact that his name can be found concealed in the letters of the dedication leaves "not much room for doubt" in Dr Rollett's mind that Wriothesley was also the inspiration for the sonnets.

They were published in 1609 by Thomas Thorpe, described by the *Dictionary of National Bibliography* as "discreet and half-educated". He obtained them from an unknown source — not Shakespeare — and is assumed to have written the dedication, since it ends with the initials T.T. The sonnets were written much earlier, in about 1594, when the poet was 30 and Wriothesley was 21.

Many scholars have been struck by the awkwardness of Thorpe's dedication, since he is known to have been capable of more elegant prose. It occupies the second leaf of the

HENRY UNMASKED

1 The original dedication
TO THE ONLY BEGETTER OF
THESE INVING SONNETS
MR W. H. ALL-HAPPINESSE
AND THAT, ETHEMITE
PROMISED.

BY

OVERLIVING-PORK

WISHTH

THE WELL-WISHING

ADVENTURE, IN

SETTING

FORTE.

2 The dedication arranged in 9 rows of 18 letters reveals the name "HENRY"

TO THE ONLY BEGETTER
OF THESE INVING SONNETS
EROTWESKINSVING
SONNETSMYWHALLHAT
PPWESSEANDTHATE
TEAMITIEPROMISED
BIVREVERLIVINGP

GETWISHETHTHEWEL

LWISHINGADVENTVR

ERINSETTINGFORTH

3 The dedication arranged in 8 rows of 18 letters reveals the name "WROTHSELEY"

TO THE ONLY BEGETTER
OF THESE INVING SONNETS
ETSMYWHALLHAPPINES
SEANDTHATEETERNITIE
PROMISED BIVREVERE

IVINGPDEWJSHETHH

EWELLWISHINGADVENT

ERINSETTINGFORTH

Teacher quits in protest at £1,500 Christmas party

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE deputy head of a primary school has resigned in protest at the amount of money spent on the staff Christmas party. Steve Williamson quit Kew Primary School in Bridgwater, south London, after about 30 staff enjoyed a £1,500 night out, including dinner and a trip to the West End show *Chicago*.

School governors said no more than £500 of the grant-maintained school's budget should have been spent and have launched an inquiry. They will meet next term to decide whether Peter Charlton, the head teacher, should repay the remaining £1,000.

Tony Andrews, the chairman of governors, said yesterday that Mr Williamson would serve his notice during the spring term. "He has resigned and we accepted his resignation. His letter prompted us to look into this further," said Mr Andrews.

He added: "We think an element of team-building and morale-boosting for the staff is appropriate, but we thought the amount of money was too high. The governors are investigating the matter. It is a matter of whether it was spent appropriately, given that it is a state school and it is public money. The staff



John Rollett, who says the odds against the name Henry Wriothesley appearing by chance are one in 320 million

quarto edition, beginning "To the only begeter of these

insuing sonnets Mr W.H. all-happinesse..."

In 1964 Leslie Hotson, a Shakespeare scholar, claimed to have identified the name William Hatfield hidden in the dedication, but this idea is not now accepted. Inspired by Hotson's efforts, Dr Rollett wondered if the dedication really did contain the secret.

It contains many peculiarities, he says, from the way it is arranged in the curious spelling of "only", and the close conjunction of "wished" and "well-wishing", where near-repetition could easily have been avoided by using a phrase such as "well-disposed".

This made him wonder if it was a cipher. When he counted the letters, he found there were 144, a suspiciously round number which has many factors. This suggested the idea of laying out the letters as blocks — 12 lines of 12 letters each to form a square, for example, or eight letters by 18.

Arranged in a rectangle of nine rows, each of 16 letters, the name Henry appears, running diagonally downwards. And when the letters are arranged as a block of eight by 18, the name Wriothesley can be teased out — although it is broken up into three separate sections, "W.", "ioth", and "sley".

Such a cipher is based on a technique first used by Spartan generals, who wound a strip of paper around a staff, then wrote the message end to end. The message cannot be read until the paper is wound around an identical staff by the recipient.

Codes were widely used in Elizabethan times, and John Dee, a scholar and astrologer of the day, describes a cipher based on writing out a text in the form of a block, as Dr Rollett has done. Thorpe could well have been aware of this type of cipher.

Dr Rollett's decoding will appear in the next issue of *Elizabethan Review*, a literary and historical journal published in the US. Whether it will be accepted by scholars depends on how plausible it is that the names Henry and Wriothesley would

appear by chance at 1,192 to one, and the section "sley" of Wriothesley at 1,056 to one. Taking into account the same block also includes "ioth" and "W." raises the odds to about one in 270,000, says Dr Rollett. Multiplying the odds against finding Henry with those against finding the three fragments of Wriothesley gives overall odds of one in 320 million.

So far, Dr Rollett has been disappointed by the reaction of Shakespearean scholars. "One replied that the identity of the young man was no longer central to work on the sonnets," he says. "Another said it didn't matter who he was. But his identity has puzzled a large number of people for 150 years or so."

There is one final problem: Henry Wriothesley was HW, not WH. Dr Rollett is undeterred — he says that Thorpe simply transposed the initials as an extra puzzle, as Elizabethans often did.



A famous miniature by Nicholas Hilliard is thought by some to represent the "Fair Youth" of the sonnets, because the brambles are said to form the letters "WH".

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Britain plans to turn off TV porn channel

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

A BANNING order is to be sought by Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, against a French-based pornographic television channel beamed into Britain by satellite.

In October the Independent Television Commission (ITC) decided that *Eurotica Rendez-Vous* was an "unsuitable" channel under broadcasting rules and recommended that Mr Smith seek the order, which bans the marketing and sale of the service in Britain.

The ITC said that the output of the channel — a reconstructed version of an earlier banned channel called *Rendez-Vous* — consisted "almost exclusively of unacceptable pornography". The channel is being marketed in Britain through advertisements in satellite magazines and dealers offering decoders and smart cards.

The commission licenses a number of "soft porn" satellite channels, such as *Playboy*,

subscription. Such channels feature nudity and simulated sex. The ITC said yesterday that *Eurotica Rendez-Vous* showed explicit sexual acts which it judges pornographic.

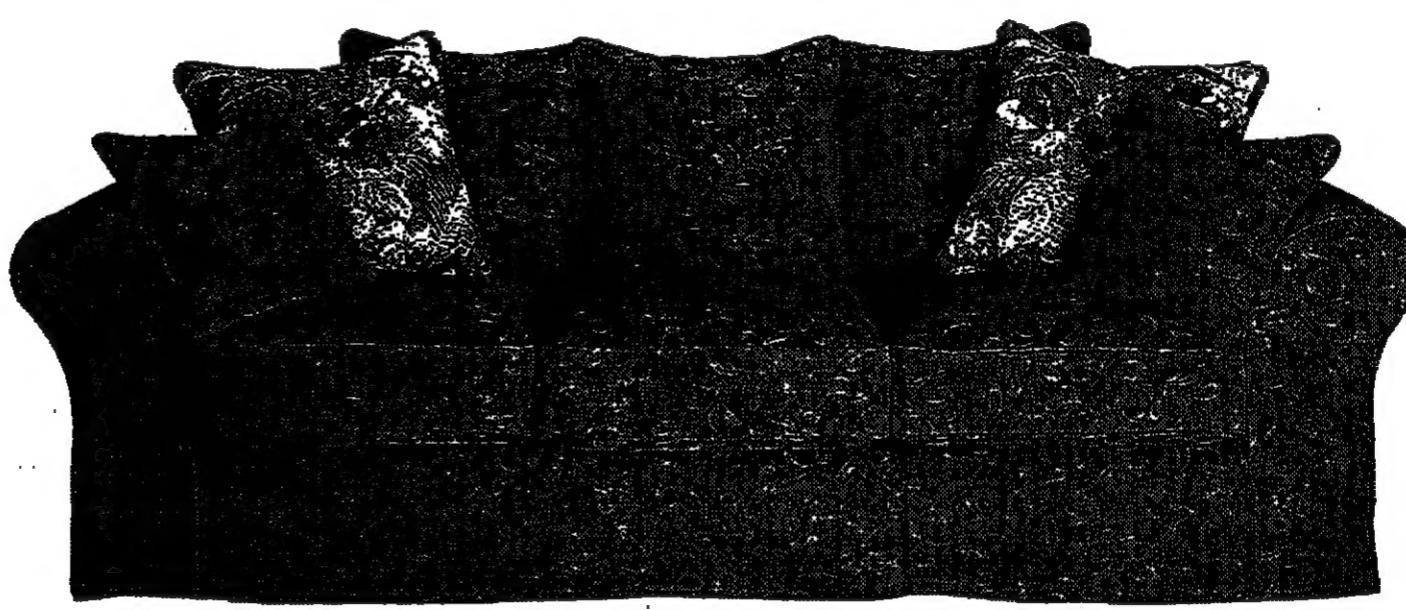
The secretary of state has viewed the tape of *Eurotica* and agrees with the ITC's judgment, the Department of Culture said yesterday.

Mr Smith plans on Monday to notify *Eurotica*, the French Government and the European Commission of his intention to proscribe the channel.

The Government is using a clause of the EU Broadcasting Directive which allows member states to act against types of programmes "which might seriously impair the physical, mental or moral development of minors".

Britain's first homosexual television channel, *Gay TV*, is to be launched on January 6. The satellite subscription channel, which promises "the very raunchiest in gay entertainment", will be broadcast each day from 4am to 5.30am.

Visit our Winter Sale on New Year's Day.



Collins and Hayes Araminta £1,899. Sale Price £1,519.

Relax for the rest of the year.

Visit the furniture and furnishings department with great reductions on beds, sofas, tables and carpets and you'll be in a good position to enjoy the rest of the year in comfort and style.

In fact there'll be a great many reductions throughout the store on electrical appliances, TVs and audio equipment and men's and ladies' fashions.

So if you believe in the expression 'out with the old, in with the new', visit your local House of Fraser store on New Year's Day (or January 2nd for Scottish stores). And once you've done that, relax.



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of comparing
the £13,999 Hyundai Coupé
to a £143,685 Ferrari**

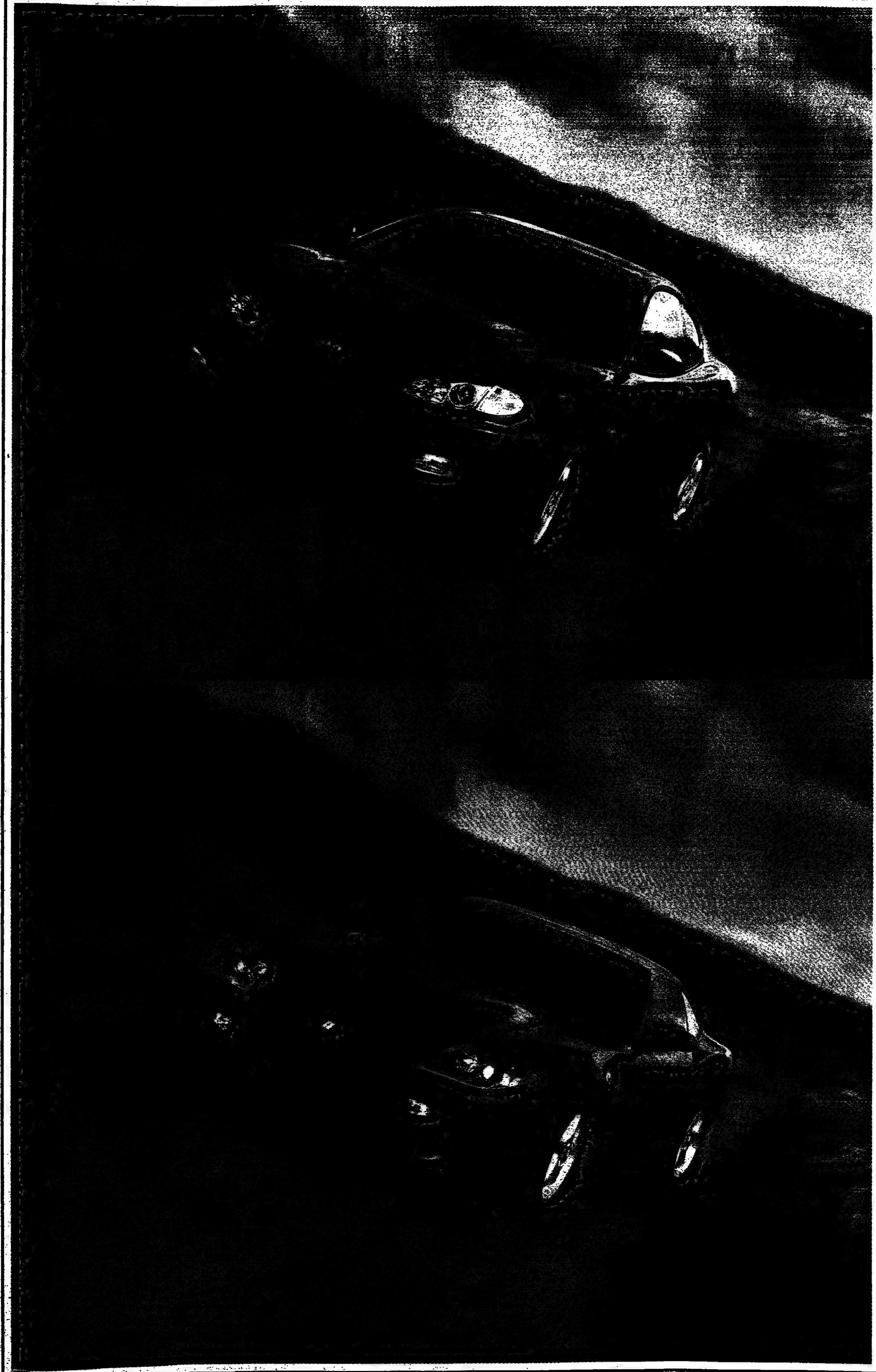
**We left that to a
well known journalist.**

When we launched the Coupé, motoring journalist Mike Rutherford wrote this about the choice of Ferrari 328 GTS as the 'Journalist's Choice':

A very fine car.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31 1997



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Nile town counts cost of massacre



Michael Binyon reports from Luxor how visitors are being promised bargain prices. Photographs by Chris Harris

THE vast floating hotels are moored silently along the Nile bank. The linen sails of the picturesque *falusas* flap in the breeze but no one is taking photographs and no one ventures out for a sail.

Abed el-Naser sat dejected, in the warm December sun outside his floating papyrus museum, no longer bothering to entice in the occasional European. "There is no one coming. They are all frightened. Most of us will be ruined," he said.

A mile away, flanking the massive portals of the temple of Luxor, the inscrutable pharaonic statues stand as they have for 4,000 years. But there are no Germans clustered around their pedestals, no groups of British package holidaymakers lis-

tening to the history of ancient Thebes, no Swiss or Japanese with their cameras, sun-hats and curiosity to explore Egypt's most lucrative tourist attraction. The massacre of 58 tourists, including six Britons, at the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut on November 17 has devastated the £2 billion Egyptian tourism industry. Nowhere has the damage been as great, or the psychological shock so profound, as at Luxor.

The small, close-knit city, far up the Nile in Upper Egypt, was considered immune from the politics of Islamic fanaticism. "No one expected anything here," the guides said. "We all know each other. Everyone here is very angry. We are still tribal in Upper Egypt, and we follow the tribal rules of hospitality. The tourists are our guests. Everyone of us is insulted by these men who came from outside to kill us."

Complicacy was the culprit. It took the police almost 90 minutes to arrive on the scene after the six gunmen had begun firing. It was the locals who tried to help, pursuing the bus hijacked by the killers with sticks, staves and stones. The bus driver, who defied orders to drive to another tourist site until he was wounded by the enraged gunmen, is a local hero.

"We have learnt the lesson," insisted Salim Salim, the city's



A woman from the University of Luxor cleaning hieroglyphics and depictions at Karnak temple



Boats and floating hotels lie idle on the Nile at Luxor as tourists stay away from the site of Egypt's pharaonic treasures after the massacre

new Mayor, a no-nonsense army man drafted in to improve security and help Luxor to get back on its feet.

The city has been ringed with troops far out in the desert, on watch for infiltrators. At the main tourist sites, police armed with machine-guns sit at the entrances. But, however much the local people argue that Luxor is safer than Florida or New York, tourist companies have taken fright.

The British were by far the largest group of visitors, and they have disappeared.

"Why is Thomson not sending people?" the hoteliers asked, invoking each time the company that is the lifeblood for the city. They also hint that the British Government is forbidding Britons to go to Egypt, certainly the Foreign Office advice with its warning of Islamic fanaticism, has made insurance cover more difficult. Cairo has come to the town's aid. It has postponed all tax collection for six months

and begun a big programme to fill the empty beds with Egyptians — students, teachers, civil servants and all those who would benefit from knowing their country's history.

The occasional Western visitor is delighted by the chance to wander in solitude among the pillars of Karnak or marvel at the hieroglyphics and depictions of rites millennia ago. "Of course I'm not worried," a New Zealander remarked as she hurried across to the empty temple. "I wouldn't be here if I was."

Those seeking a bargain should go now. Rarely has Luxor been more accessible or more welcoming. Two decades of tourism have inculcated in the local people a love for the ancient pharaohs.

In the near-empty cafés, there is anger at corruption, nepotism and the perception that Cairo has always looked down on Upper Egypt. But no one shows anything but contempt for the Islamists. "You are safe with us," the guides and guards tell tourists.

And if smiles were shields, Luxor would be invincible. "Welcome," the police say every hundred yards. "You are welcome in Egypt." More than ever now.

World numbers growth 'slowing'

Washington: Population growth is declining globally but remains high in those countries "least able to support their growing millions", according to a study released yesterday.

The Population Institute said: "Rapid population growth in the poorest countries remains the most pressing global demographic problem." Its *1997 World Population Overview* compared the slower rise in population to a tidal wave. "Whether ... 80ft or 400ft high, the impact will be similar."

Over the next few years, the annual number of births worldwide would be at least 132 million. The institute added that nearly 98 per cent of the annual population increase occurs in less developed regions. The overall decline in growth was attributed to widespread acceptance of family planning, delayed marriage and increasing death rates. (AFP)

Millennial cheer for champagne sales

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

SALES of champagne have broken all records this year as anxious buyers stockpile bottles for the millennium — and Britain is one of the biggest overseas customers.

More than 270 million bottles were sold in 1997 with exports reaching 100 million bottles for the first time, the French business daily *Les Echos* reported. "At the moment we are witnessing precautionary buying and this situation will become even more apparent next year," Yves Bénard, president of the Union of Champagne Houses, said.

Stocks have never been higher, standing at about one billion bottles, most of it tucked away in cellars, cut into the chalky stone below the towns of Reims and Epernay. The



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Kenya unrest feared after chaos at polls

KENYA faced the prospect yesterday of renewed unrest, with the Government and the opposition crying foul after chaotic general elections.

President Moi said in a radio broadcast that the election was rigged by his opponents. The claim was made as ballots were still being counted after electoral mayhem forced a second day of voting yesterday.

The 73-year-old President, and his Kanu party, have been widely tipped to win the elections. But state-owned KBC radio broadcast a bulletin in which President Moi accused the Electoral Commission of being involved in "an obvious scheme to rig the general elections in favour of the opposition".

The radio added: "President Moi said it was absurd that, since the start of voting [on Monday], the Electoral Commission had targeted Kanu's traditional strongholds." It quoted Mr Moi as saying that in some Kanu areas the commission had made sure there was a shortage of ballot papers.

Opposition parties are also dismissing the elections as fraudulent. They are blaming Kanu for purposely orchestrating the confusion in which ballot papers were delivered late, to the wrong places and,

Government and opposition are crying electoral foul, David Orr reports in Nairobi

hold an election. [They are] an insult to the Kenyan people." The NCEC urged Kenyans yesterday to "reject the flawed elections" and called on Mr Moi to form a government of national unity. The organisation, which led last summer's suppressed pro-democracy demonstrations, has appealed for calm "at this hour of national tragedy".

Professor Kivutha Kibwana, the NCEC chairman, said yesterday: "The manner in which the elections have been conducted so far precludes anyone other than Moi from winning." A few minutes after the NCEC press conference, senior Kanu officials were also alleging skulduggery. Echoing the words of his leader, Jeremiah Nyagah accused "Electoral Commission of trying to frustrate an otherwise assured [Kanu] victory. Ballot papers were either missing or less than required in areas that support Kanu. It is obvious these events were not accidental."

His statements to journalists gave rise to suspicions that President Moi and Kanu may be preparing the ground for defeat if the results, expected by the end of the week, go against them.

The elections are emerging as a "fantastic farce", said members of the National Convention Executive Council (NCEC), a pro-democracy reform lobby with strong opposition links. "Pretended inefficiency and staggering fraud have irreparably marred the 1997 attempt to



A soldier guards hundreds of full ballot boxes in Nairobi City Hall yesterday before counting got under way

Leading article, page 19

Chicken flu hunt extended to China

By JAMES PRINGLE

THE World Health Organisation confirmed yesterday that health experts would visit China next month to search for a possible source of the deadly avian flu virus.

The announcement came as unofficial reports from China's Guangdong province bordering Hong Kong said that one person had died from the illness there.

Tang Guoqiang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the Agriculture Ministry had sent its own experts to Guangdong to investigate the epidemic, but that "as of now, we have not received any reports of cases of avian flu".

There appears to be no killing of chickens in China, which Hong Kong officials say has been the epicentre of influenza outbreaks: 80 per cent of Hong Kong's chickens come from the mainland.

An Agriculture Ministry official said that the ministry would soon issue a notice urging the whole country, and coastal provinces in particular, to be alert to the avian flu, which most chicken-vendors in Beijing know little or nothing about.

In Beijing, Alan Schnur, a local WHO official, said the experts would visit Guangdong during the week starting January 12. He added that Chinese authorities were treating the scare "very seriously" and were engaged in surveillance work.

In Hong Kong, the slaughter of 1.3 million chickens continued in an effort to combat the epidemic which has killed four out of the 13 people who are thought to have contracted the sickness.

Areas where the birds had been exterminated in Hong Kong's urban areas were being hosed down and disinfected. Empty chicken markets were unusually deserted and silent. The grisly business of killing has now moved into markets and smallholdings in the rural New Territories.

Taiwan said last night it was striving to replace China as the main supplier of chickens to Hong Kong.

Nyerere offers jail exit for Kaunda

By RAY KENNEDY

KENNETH KAUNDA, the former Zambian President who has been in jail since Christmas Day, was yesterday offered freedom in return for a pledge to retire from active politics.

Julius Nyerere, the former Tanzanian President, flew with the offer to the maximum security prison at Kambe after talks in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, with President Chiluba. Mr Nyerere flew to Lusaka on Monday to try to mediate on behalf of countries in the 11-member Southern African Development Community (SADC), to which Zambia belongs, who have expressed their concern.

"I was allowed to see Kenneth Kaunda and now I am off home. I have nothing more to say to the press," Mr Nyerere told reporters.

But although some diplomats in Lusaka felt that Mr Nyerere could clinch a deal, others said they believed that Dr Kaunda, 73, will not give way. One of his sons, Major Wazi Kaunda, said yesterday that his father, who has been on hunger strike since his arrest, has now been persuaded to drink some water and fruit juice.

He has been served with a 28-day detention order in connection with a failed coup attempt in October carried out by a group of junior army officers. An application in the Lusaka High Court for him to be released on bail is due to be resumed on Friday.



Nyerere: mediating on behalf of African states

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WHEN PREGNANT HARMS YOUR BABY

Chief Medical Officers' Warning
Pregnant Nicotine

Beijing tries to halt Singapore visit

From JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINA yesterday expressed serious concern over a planned unofficial visit to Singapore by Lien Chan, the Taiwanese Vice-President, which it sees as a rebuff from an old ally.

The visit takes some of the gloss off Beijing's formal establishment of diplomatic relations with South Africa yesterday. President Mandela's Government signed a formal agreement with China, switching relations from Taiwan to the mainland. South Africa said it accepted that there was only one China, the People's Republic of China.

Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, who signed the agreement with his counterpart, Alfred Nzo, in Pretoria, told Taiwan to give up

its rivalry with Beijing. "It is like Don Quixote's fight against the windmills."

Yet Taiwan has managed to save some face by announcing Mr Lien's "family holiday" in Singapore, during which it is said he will meet Singaporean leaders. Twenty-nine countries retain diplomatic links with Taiwan.

"We are seriously concerned about this news and have made representations to the Singapore side," Tang Guoqiang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said. "We hope the Singapore Government will proceed from the overall friendly interests of the two nations, solve this problem and avoid unnecessary interference or damage to bilateral relations."

1997: a year of tears, betrayal . . .

Who could have predicted this time last year that 1997 would bring such dramatic swings of public emotion? Britain rejoiced with Tony Blair on May 2 — the winds of political change had restored a Labour Government for the first time in 18 years. Four months later, on a sunny morning, we mourned Diana, Princess of Wales. History may forget some of this year's movers, shakers and snapshots but, for the moment at least, says BILL FROST, we will not.



CONSPICUOUS CONSUMERS

VIKTOR KOZENEK, Czech financier and restaurant legend. One lunch at the Mayfair's Le Gavroche set the so-called Prince of Prague back more than £13,000, most of which was spent on wine. Food was taken and cigars selected from the humidor but, when the bill is added with bottles, little room is left for plates or ashtrays.

Oasis wives Meg and Patsy Gallagher would be hard pressed to match such a daily total on lunch. However, their well-known fondness for designer labels and assorted gewgaws can reach similar heights. And there is plenty of time for the pair to go for a new record once the gaudily new year sales are over.

BABY OF THE YEAR

KARLI HAWTHORNE, snatched from Basildon Hospital hours after her birth then reunited with her parents.

Tanya, the child's mother, said: "She cried all the way home, but the minute we set her down she started sleeping."

BAD SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER (no contest). Slamming his Ferrari across Jacques Villeneuve's Williams Renault during

the Spanish Grand Prix was described by veteran driver Stirling Moss as "quite appalling".

Villeneuve's verdict — even though he went on to win the world championship — was unprintable.

Damon Hill — who was also deprived of the victory's laurels after a collision with Schumacher at the Adelaide circuit in 1994 — added: "Michael did something that was so blatant that it tarnished his great reputation."

"Draconian punishments are imposed upon people for doing something that seems fairly innocuous to many, and at other times nothing is done at all."

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ALL ACTION BRAVERY AWARDS

SIX NOMINATIONS in this category, given in no particular order.

Ann Widdecombe's onslaught on Michael Howard, her former boss at the Home Office, was by any standards a bravura performance. The dismissal of Derek Lewis, former head of the Prison Service and alleged scapegoat for a number of embarrassing escapes and other crises, was "deplorable", said Miss Widdecombe. She accused Mr Howard of "distorting" a report on the service to justify the sacking. The former Home Secretary was "obsessively concerned with controlling events", she claimed.

Lisa Potts, the nursery nurse who saved children at a picnic from a man armed with a machete by shielding them with her own body, was told by the Queen: "Yours was absolute bravery." Miss Potts, awarded the George Medal for her courage and herself injured in the attack, is still in therapy.

Josie Russell saw her sister and mother murdered on a woodland path in Kent. She, too, suffered appalling injuries. Remarkably, she has recovered. Her hair, shaved off for surgery, has now regrown and the hats she wore to cover the scars have been abandoned.

For dignity in sadness at their mother's funeral: the Princes William and Harry.

For extraordinary energy during the general election campaign while suffering the pain of terminal illness: the late Sir James Goldsmith.

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"Draconian punishments are imposed upon people for doing something that seems fairly innocuous to many, and at other times nothing is done at all."

DIVORCEES OF THE YEAR

THE BILLIONAIRE'S ex-wife known as the Bride of Wildenstein because of the plastic surgery she has undergone says she cannot survive on £30,000 a month. Jocelyne Wildenstein, 52, revealed that she could not possibly cope on anything less than £150,000 a month.

Lorna Wendt has no complaints, though. The Connecticut wife claimed her husband was worth £60 million and fought for half. She was awarded £13 million, the family mansion and a condominium in Key Largo.



THE DIANA EFFECT

new mode, too — the Queen spoke movingly to the nation and the Prince of Wales mounted a charm offensive. Earl Spencer ticked off the tabloids at his sister's funeral and then lost the

morning high ground when details of his own unhappy marriage were revealed at a divorce hearing in Cape Town.

In death as in life, the Princess herself continues to fascinate. The scenes of public mourning and the mountains of flowers outside Kensington Palace will stay with us all.

REVELATION OF THE YEAR



JACQUELINE DU PRE, once arguably the world's finest cellist, was cast in a very different light by her brother and sister in their book, *A Genius in the Family* (serialised exclusively in *The Times*).

They claimed that she was spoilt, manipulative and — where men were concerned — dangerous. Her marriage to Daniel Barenboim was disintegrating when her sister, Hilary, allowed Jacqueline to sleep with her husband, Kiefer.

"Not to have done so would have precipitated Jacqueline into total breakdown," Hilary said.

"It was incredibly painful and very hard... but it is even harder to see a sister, who one loves very much indeed, at such an awful state of rock bottom."

DOWNTURN OF THE YEAR

JONATHAN ATKEN endured humiliation and public vilification over his involvement with the Al Paynes et al. But he is still not short of a bob or two, so shed no tears.

His libel action against *The Guardian* collapsed when the former Treasury Secretary, who had famously claimed to be wielding the "sword of truth", was found to have lied under oath about his bill at the Ritz Hotel in Paris. He said that the tab had been picked up by his wife, while the newspaper alleged it had been met by a wealthy Arab businessman.

Atten faced a legal bill of up to £2 million. He said when the case was withdrawn that he and his family had been "broken" by the affair — and at the same time split with his wife, Lorraine.

CAREER CHANGE OF THE YEAR



MARTIN BELL, veteran BBC war correspondent, was elected anti-separatist MP for Tatton. Neil Hamilton's formerly safe Tory seat in Cheshire.

"The people's choice, and I'm very proud," he said. "Last he was to admit that politics was stronger than being in a battle zone."

Eric Cantona — remember him? The big, moody French bloke decided to ditch football in favour of the screen. However, his first film, *A Question of Honour*, received scathing acclaim. "Tomorrow is another day," said the Manchester United star.

WELL-REHEARSED DEATH OF THE YEAR

COLUMNIST Jeffrey Bernard, the inspiration for Keith Waterhouse's play *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*, who described his weekly column in *The Spectator* as a "suicide note by instalments".

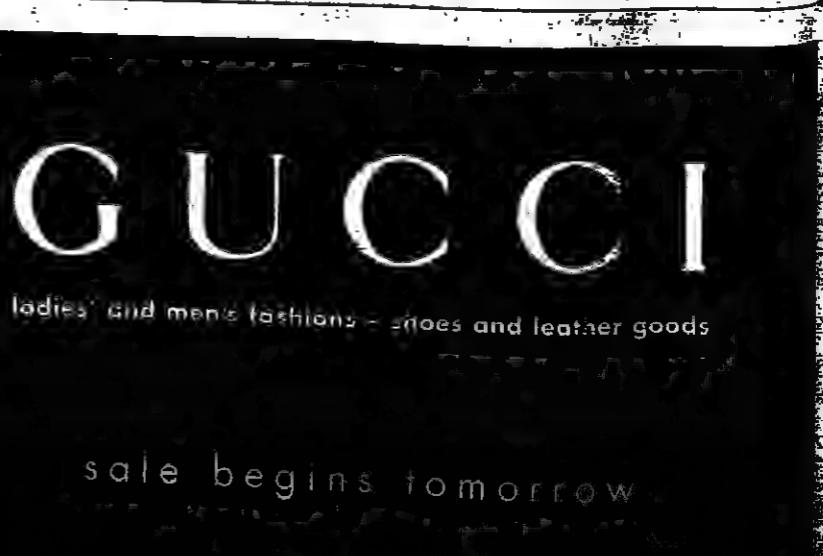
The chain-smoking, heavy-drinking, gambling, womanising, silver-penned chronicler of Soho low life wrote an article ten years ago describing the sort of funeral that he wanted — a burial place in Westminster Abbey and massed pipe bands.

In the event, the service took place in a small chapel at the West London Crematorium in Kensal Green. His ashes were to be buried by the gallops at the Seven Barrows stables in Berkshire "so future generations of Derby winners can gallop over me".

SURVIVORS OF THE YEAR

NICOLA HORLICK, the former Morgan Grenfell fund manager who made a spectacular flight to the company's Frankfurt office after being suspended, is now with Société Générale and has joined the luvvies — Channel 4 has asked her to head its efforts to find sponsorship and outside backers.

Stephen Fry, polymath actor, walked out of the West End play *Cell Mates* but still remains bankable, via his starring role in the critically acclaimed film *Wilde*. "I'm not going to say I'm happy. I'm not going to say I'm in a complete state... I think I'm averagely in a state."



SARTORIAL TRIUMPH

CHERIE BLAIR showed she was First Lady of fashion by outshining Hillary Clinton when the President and his wife visited London in May.

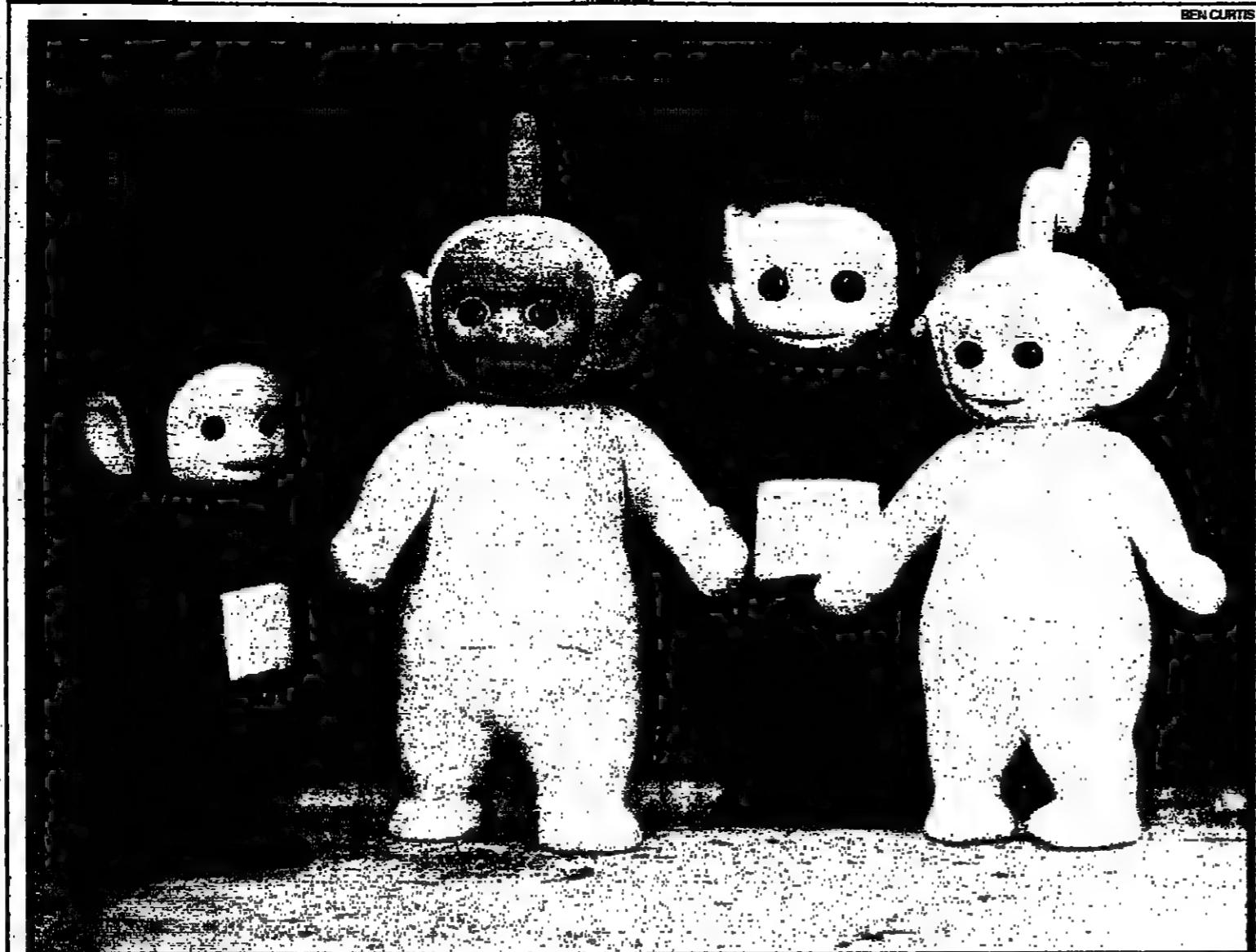
Both women opted for neutral shades, understated accessories and neatly buttoned coats. But Mrs Blair dazzled through in her £400 grey shift dress and matching coat with satin lapels. She teamed the outfit, by her favourite designer, Romeo Zilkha, with court shoes and a simple necklace.

"Ten out of ten for the lady from No 10," wrote one fashion editor. "Cherie was the clear winner." By comparison, Hillary's outfit looked as though it had been bought from some mid-market department store.

Rumour-queen Fiona Hague. That wedding dress, a figure-hugging sheath with draped neckline, cloak and short train, was sophisticated and sexy. Like the Blackpool number, it was the work of young London designer Neil Cunningham.

JP JALIS

... elation and new beginnings



THIS LIFE. Hotel, Teletubbies and The Full Monty.

An everyday story of young professionals getting out of their heads and being promiscuous. BBC2's *This Life* became compulsive viewing. The last episode pulled out all the stops our heroes were engaged in activities too

TV AND FILM SMASH HITS OF THE YEAR

sordid to mention in a family newspaper.

Hotel gave staff at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool a weekly fix of stardom. However, it will be interesting to see how the bookings are

faring this time next year.

Teletubbies time is now sacrosanct in almost every household with young children. Laa Laa, Po, Tinky Winky and Dipsy have become firmly entrenched fam-

ily favourites — they may be overweight and talk rubbish but at least they bring a few minutes' respite every day to beleaguered parents.

The Full Monty was the surprise smash of the year

on both sides of the Atlantic. A troupe of former Sheffield steelworkers who had had enough of life on the dole decide to take their kit off for the girls and regain some dignity in the process — a low-budget production high on laughter and with bags of "feel-good" factor.

CELEBRITY DEATHS OF THE YEAR

THE murder of Gianni Versace in July at his Miami mansion exposed some of the strange excesses of the rich and famous.

The fashion designer, shot dead by 27-year-old Andrew Cunanan, was revealed as the "openly homosexual prince" of South Beach.

There was talk of mass orgies and drug abuse; a succession of young male consorts; the dark fantasies of a sadomasochistic culture. Still, he was mourned at his funeral by the great and the good — among them Diana, Princess of Wales.

The apparent suicide of

Michael Hutchence also showed the darker side of celebrity and wealth.

Found hanging by his belt in a Sydney hotel room, the INXS rock star was said to have been high on drugs while entertaining an old flame.

Paula Yates, the minor league English celebrity he was to marry in 1998, said she would never get over his death. "Michael was the love of my life," she added.

A single tiger lily was among the flowers on his coffin — the couple's 16-month-old daughter is called Heavenly Hiraani Tiger



Lily. Ms Yates, who recently discovered she was the love child of the late game-show host Hughie Green, forgot

her pledge to wear widow's weeds and chose instead a revealing dress showing off her silicon-grown breasts.

DIVA OF THE YEAR

A SPECIAL award goes to Gerald Katifman, waspish chairman of the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, for putting a bomb under the Royal Opera House in October with a scathing report highlighting a performance of financial "incompetence".

Poor planning had plunged the company into the worst crisis of its 51-year history — the board resigned en masse, having run up debts of almost £5 million — and Mr Kaufman told them that "the Arts Council would be nuts to give you an extra penny until you have sorted yourselves out".

He smacked Mary Allen, the new chief executive, for saying that a larger public subsidy was needed.

The ROH's financial affairs were "a shambles" and the company was "wandering around London like the Flying Dutchman" in search of more cash to waste.

BETRAYAL OF THE YEAR

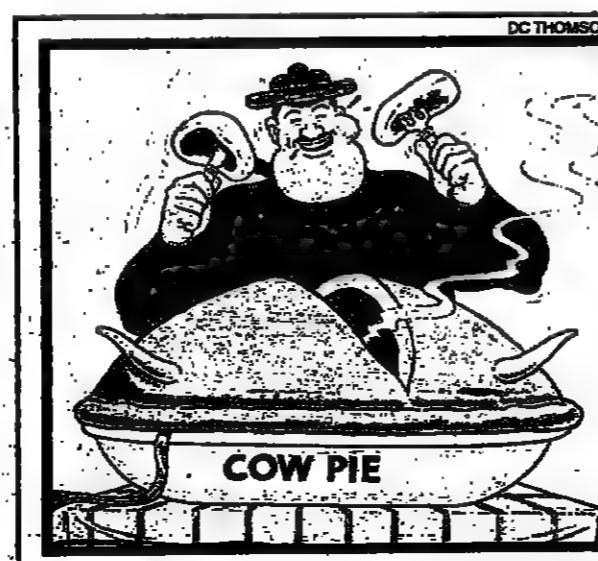
"THE Blairs like cats," said the Prime Minister's spokesman after claims that Humphrey, Downing Street's very own mouser, had gone to meet his maker.

Reports, started by diarist and serial philanderer Alan Clark, that the animal's death warrant had been signed by Cherie Blair after the animal had soiled a designer frock were hotly denied.

Snaps of the cat (complete with that day's newspaper to prove authenticity) taken at a secret location in southeast London have failed to satisfy everyone. The question remains: "Could Humphrey have been put to the sword for peeing on Cherie's dress?"

MOST PRETENTIOUS FILM OF THE YEAR

IT WON nine Oscars but let's face it, *The English Patient* was a yawn. Frederick Forsyth spoke for many when he called it "languid to the point of inertia, pretentious, self-indulgent and with all the authenticity of *The Wizard of Oz*. Quite.



HEALTH SCARE OF THE YEAR

BSE, AND NOW beef on the bone. Agriculture Minister Jack Cunningham's ban on the latter has infuriated the meat industry and consumers alike.

A clandestine network of butchers across the country is still selling T-bone steaks and ribs as government inspectors admit that they are helpless to stop the trade.

More to the point, not everyone is convinced that the move was dictated by health concerns: could be more a case of having a tilt at our European partners.

MOST WELCOME DEPARTURES FROM PUBLIC LIFE

JONATHAN AJKIN (also *Downfall*) and rightwinger David Evans. The former Treasury Secretary now yields no influence. A future role on the political stage is unlikely.

Evans lost his seat last May. Mr Major was said to have cheered when he heard the result.

"Mr Mad", as the former MP for Welwyn Hatfield had been known, was notorious for his sexist and racist outbursts — Virginia Bottomley was "dead from the neck up" and his Labour rival "a single girl with three bastard children", he proclaimed.



DIGNITY IN DEFEAT

JOHN MAJOR: a speech that gave the man a gravitas he perhaps lacked while Prime Minister. You may not have liked his party, but in the small hours of May 2 his words made even the staunchest new Labour supporter feel sorry for him.

And a tear for Chris Patten, the last emperor of Hong Kong. Let us hope Central Office finds him a safe seat, if such an option remains for a Tory candidate. Failing that, he may join the race to become elected mayor of London.

Michael Portillo. From the moment Margaret Thatcher's heir apparent heard that he had lost his Enfield Southgate seat to a man named Twig, he became a model of dignity and restraint. The former Defence Secretary went from being an arrogant, quiffed zealot while in office to a model of humility on the night of defeat.

"It was not put on, I promise," he said later. "I was devastated."

BOUNDRY OF THE YEAR

EARL SPENCER'S treatment of his wife, Victoria — as revealed in the Cape Town divorce proceedings — may have angered every right-thinking woman. A real contender in this category.

Try this one for size, though: Nicole Kidman was left at the altar when her fiancé bolted to Tahiti. Michael Tassos, an Anglo-Cypriot maritime lawyer, dumped his bride at the Greek Orthodox Church in Manhattan then fled off on honeymoon by himself.

Runner-up: Piers Morgan, married former Tory MP for Beckenham. His "friendship" with an 18-year-old Soho bar hostess — "she slept on the sofa" — came at a crucial pre-election point when sleaze and

UGLY BLOKE OF THE YEAR

CHRIS EVANS. DJ-cum-media mogul. He may have shelled out millions for Virgin Radio but he remains ginger and bespectacled.

Evans's on-air mix of egocentric rambling, vulgarity and innuendo continues to amuse some listeners, but can you fool all of the people all of the time?

And just in case you are tempted to harbour any lingering loyalty to the carrot-topped one, he failed to send his ten-year-old daughter, Jade, either a card or a present this Christmas.

And what does Jade think? Her verdict after seeing him on television news after the signing of the Virgin deal ... "Oh — isn't he ugly!"



NATIONAL TRAUMA OF THE YEAR

THE death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Seeing the card to "Mummy" on her coffin was, almost certainly, the most poignant moment of this or any year in recent history.

The Queen's live broadcast summed up the feelings of a nation stricken by grief. "No one who knew Diana will ever forget her. Millions of others, who never met her,

will remember her. I, for one, believe that there are lessons to be drawn from her life and from the extraordinary reaction to her death."

"May those who died rest in peace and may we, each and every one of us, thank God for someone who made many, many people happy."

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Count me out of the party, please

Philip Delves Broughton

explains why he will not be in the festive spirit tonight

As 1899 turned to 1900, a Sigmund Freud was a man best avoided. He was telling anyone who looked too cheerful that the only thing they could be sure of in the next century was that they would die in it. Some may have told him to cheer up or get back to his couch. Others would have stared into the champagne going flat in their flutes and admitted that irritatingly, Sigmund once again had a point. In his roundabout way, he was saying what millions would agree with: new year celebrations are the pits.

As an excuse for a party, new year is an arbitrary and inconvenient date dictated simply by the calendar. It comes at the end of a period of extended gluttony and celebrating, and for many is little more than a final road hump to be negotiated before the blissful purge of January. It lacks the constituent essential to the best parties: that sense of release or achievement which comes at the end of something worth celebrating, a collective endeavour, whether in the office or on the tennis court, backstage at a school play or when England thump Holland 4-1 in Euro 96.

By contrast, the looming imperative to celebrate at new year is as appealing as a drunk on the bus telling you to "Cheer up," because "it may never happen." Then there is the guilt. Why else would there be such things as new year resolutions, if not to make you feel guilty about the way you lived the year gone by? Stop smoking, work harder, stop keeping your clothes in a heap on the floor and use the wardrobe. But the warm feeling generated by one's resolutions to right these wrongs soon dissolves into the realisation that they will all be back by mid-January.

As the millennium ends, the perennial state of new year fragility is being given grandiose titles: Millennial Anxiety, Pre-Millennial Tension, or Millennial Malaise. For a cult member who has decided to spend the years up to 2000 freezing on a mountain in Colorado in anticipation of the Second Coming, then anxiety is entirely understandable. Should the Messiah decide to delay his arrival for 12 months without warning, more Virgin train than Virgin birth, an ensuing malaise would also be forgiveable.

For the rest of us, however, the only thing millennial about the malaise is that the normal anxiety about how or with whom to bring in the new year is being exacerbated a thousand times over.

With the arrival of a new century or a new millennium, the insecurities endemic in new year deepen and yet the demand for celebrations grows louder.

By the time 2000 comes, Britain will be in a state of nervous breakdown, like a deeply insecure host, grinning wildly, turning up the music.

Alan Coren's column will appear on Friday.

herding everyone into the Dome and forcing them to have a good time whether they damned well like it or not.

There is tonight and next year to rehearse. Then it will be time for the big one and Peter Mandelson will be out with his ledger: will you be a signed-up member of New Britain's, all singing, all dancing, rosy-dawned party class? Or will you be a curmudgeon, refusing to participate in the obligatory national rejoicing, looking to Greenwich and seeing nothing but Millennium Doom?

The Government, it seems,

is conspiring with the nation's party-planners, off-licences and paper hat suppliers to divide the country into those who will be attending a party and those who will not.

If national unity is what

they are after, whether for their own political motives or a genuine desire for the greatest happiness of the greatest number, they could not have chosen a worse time.

The German Protestant theologian Paul Tillich argued

in the 1950s that anxiety rose as civilisations declined. He described three periods of anxiety which gripped the whole of society. From Alexander the Great until the fall of Rome, men suffered from "the anxiety of fate and death". The only means to overcome it was by performing insane acts of courage. Next came the Middle Ages and the anxiety brought on by fear of the wrath of God and the accompanying trend to guilt and condemnation.

Finally, and this is what we

are suffering from, there is the anxiety brought on by victory in war, the rise of liberal democracy, pluralism and lives made easier by technology. This, Tillich called "the anxiety of emptiness and meaninglessness". Typical gloom-mongering from a German Protestant theologian, perhaps. Then again, like that other Eeyore, Freud, he may have been on to something.

On the 4th of January 1968 to

was to ring in one of the most exciting periods of the post-war era. 1968 was the year of violent student revolt, and of assassination. It determined the defeat of America in Vietnam and the fall of Gaulle. It also displayed the fissures that were to bring the whole Soviet monolith toppling two decades later.

Some caught up in it likewise

to that other year of revolution, 1848; when old political structures across Europe collapsed like the walls of Jericho.

In Paris in the last week of

February, 1848, three days of totally unexpected demos brought down the liberal Louis-Philippe, last King of France.

Given the paucity of communications, what was remarkable about 1848 was how revolution in Paris spread in a simultaneous shockwave across Europe. In Vienna the seemingly immortal Metternich — who had given Europe its past three decades of peace — was deposed.

In Britain alone revolution proved a damp squib: a demo of an alleged half-million Chartists mustering on the South Bank to march on Parliament was headed off by a combination of the Iron Duke's brilliant strategy and London rain.

By the end of 1848, except for Britain, there were dictators in almost every country of Europe.

Back to 1968:

January: In America Dr Benjamin Spock, of nursery fame, was indicted for anti-draft activities, while in Russia the writer Alexander Ginsburg was jailed for "slander of the State". Both were indications of what 1968 held in store.

On the 31st the Vietcong seized advantage of the traditional new year's Tet celebrations to launch a major co-ordinated series of attacks on South Vietnamese cities. Briefly, it looked as if the Vietcong had won. But the US forces reacted with vigour, inflicting a clear-cut defeat on the Vietcong.

None of this was seen in America,

however, nor did Americans want to see it. A much greater impact was made by the photograph of the brutal public execution of a young Vietcong suspect, while President Johnson's decision to send another 50,000 troops to Vietnam was taken as sure sign that Tet had been a Communist victory. Campuses across America erupted.

What would not remain

would be the night of December 31, 1967, which now stands as the supreme test of the nation's sociability. There will be no escape to the Indian Ocean for Tony Blair then.

But on January 1, 2000, it

will all be over. The millennial tension will have fallen from the nation's shoulders, and we will be able to resume our normal duty for another thousand years. Now that would be an excuse to unscrew the lambrusco for a party.

February: France's Jean-Claude Killy

won three golds in the Winter Olympics: three East German com-

petitors were disqualified for heating the runners of their toboggan. Richard Nixon announced he would run for President in 1968. But America was stunned by the announcement that President Johnson, worn down by Vietnam and anti-war protest, would not be a candidate.

March: Polish police clashed with

students demonstrating for greater

freedom; in Czechoslovakia Com-

munist Party chief Alexander Dubcek

sparked off the heady Prague Spring by relaxing press censorship and

arresting the chief of police. For a few

rapturous weeks it looked as if

Czechoslovakia would regain the

freedom it had lost 20 years previously.

April: On the 4th, in Memphis, Martin Luther King was

assassinated. Race riots

in Los Angeles and in

Harlem: machine gun posts were set

up outside the White House.

In Germany a left-wing student

Rudi Dutschke, was shot in the head

by a gunman claiming to emulate the King shooting. Dutschke survived, but the shooting triggered off student riots across Germany.

May: First reports in Britain that

student unrest was spreading to Paris

were eclipsed by arrest of the Kray

brothers, by Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech, and by news that the

Greek Colonels had sacked 14 govern-

ment censors after a "subversive"

report on matchboxes. But, suddenly,

on the tenth anniversary of de

Gaulle's coming to power, it was

apparent that all France was being

rocked by *les evenements* on the

Sorbonne.

In Paris the students rioted

— in London they just sang

Auld Lang Syne

al. With more than 130,000 students crammed into desperately overcrowded classrooms, the education was

arachic. There was little contact with the professors, unmotivated by either

obligations or sanctions. The primary

object of the rebel students was to

establish student power within the

Sorbonne, secondarily to achieve

sexual freedom within the precincts.

On May 5 the Paris police closed

down the Sorbonne, arresting 500

students. They over-reached, causing

many hundreds of casualties (miracu-

lously, no deaths). The students took

to the streets, supported by some

professors and parents.

Swiftly what

started as a student

revolt became political

revolt, aimed at nothing less than over-

throw of the de

Gaulle government.

Slogans such as

"Ten Years is

Enough" and

"France is Bored" (a

famous 1848 banner

revived) appeared everywhere.

The Government was caught totally unprepared. De Gaulle was in Romania;

Premier Pompidou in Afghanistan.

By the third week in May, Paris was

paralysed, with no petrol in the

pumps and food running short.

Students tried to take the revolt to

the big Renault works at Billancourt,

but, with the mighty Communist

Party just as much off balance as the

Government, the unions declined to

follow the Sorbonne's lead.

In what seemed like panic and

without telling his Prime Minister (for a moment Pompidou thought he was doing a Louis-Philippe fit), on Wed-

nesday, May 29, de Gaulle flew mysteriously to Baden-Baden — to get the support of General Massu and the

French Army in Germany. On the

Thursday he returned, making the

last powerful radio appeal of his

career. That evening the Champs-

Elysées filled with a hundred-thou-

sand pro-Gaullists.

By the 31st the Sorbonne had

been reduced to a pale reflection of the

Sorbonne. June: An art-loving actress shot Andy

Warhol, unsuccessfully.

Two days later Bobbie Kennedy was assassinated

in Los Angeles by a 24-year-old

Palestinian, Sirhan Sirhan.

August: Russian tanks crossed into

Czechoslovakia.

September: Prague returned to the

grip of Moscow winter as censorship

of the press was reimposed. In

London the cast of *Hair* stripped the

day after play censorship was

abolished.

October: 250,000 marched on the

American Embassy in Grosvenor Square in an anti-Vietnam demon-

stration. As in 1968, fears of revolution

in London proved exaggerated; the

demands ended good-humouredly, with

participants linking arms with the

police and singing *Auld Lang Syne*.

John Lennon and Yoko Ono were

arrested on drug charges, and Jackie

Kennedy married Aristotle Onassis.

November: Nixon elected President

LEO in his last act ordered an end to

bombing in Vietnam in a single

protest against Soviet repression.



MAYHEM AND MOI

Kenya's only sensible course is to hold fresh elections

Even by the miserable standards that Kenyans have become accustomed to, this week's presidential, parliamentary and local government elections have been a disgrace. The campaign itself may have been less violent than was that for Kenya's first multi-party elections in 1992, although people have still been intimidated, gassed and killed and thugs organised by the ruling KANU party have made some parts of the country no-go areas for opposition candidates. The bill may be less ruinous than it was in 1992, when President Daniel arap Moi is estimated to have spent the equivalent of \$250 million, four times the cost of President Clinton's re-election campaign, and financed it by running the printing presses. But the Government has announced unaffordable pay rises for the public sector; and there has been massive vote-buying, particularly by KANU, in a blatant attempt to settle the outcome well ahead of polling day.

The elections were thus never going to be "free and fair" by any reasonable criteria. What has reduced them to a farce, however, is the chaos at the polling booths. Kenyans turned out on Monday in far higher numbers than had been predicted, given the poor prospects of unseating Mr Moi, only to find polling stations shut because ballot papers and boxes had not arrived or election officials had failed to turn up. Many opened late or not at all, and when they did, many electoral rolls were incomplete.

As complaints poured in, Kenya's formally independent Election Commission extended voting into Tuesday in constituencies affected by "logistical" problems. But this only increased the confusion because it did not say where voting was to continue, where it had ended, or where vote-counting could start in different parts of the country. The instruction, in any case, never reached most rural areas and even yesterday, many stations still had no ballot papers. Used as they

are to being bribed and browbeaten, Kenyan voters have this time been insulted beyond endurance. No one ascribes this to mere incompetence. As the respected *Daily Nation* delicately put it, these "Chaplinesque" failures have been "so widespread and so varied as to raise suspicions concerning the honesty of the exercise".

Mr Moi himself has joined the chorus of opposition complaints and accused the commission of rigging the elections. If he believes that, he ought immediately to have annulled the elections and ordered a rerun. It is of course possible that his anger is genuine, that he fears that incompetence has upset well-laid KANU plans to "organise" the vote. But since KANU officials have ruled out cancellation, the President's claim that the rigging was "in favour of the Opposition" rings hollow. The truth is more likely to be that Mr Moi is confident of victory, at least in the presidential race, judging that the Opposition is so divided that he stands to win even if most Kenyans vote against him. Recognising that malpractice cannot this time be denied, he may be aiming to calm popular anger by shifting the blame on to the commission.

For Kenya, his cynicism could be perilous. This has been a bitter electoral battle in a country that is broke, shorn of illusions and impatient for real reform. That is why crowds have flocked to Charity Ngilu, the fearless presidential candidate who stands out as untainted in a country where corruption is endemic. After last summer's violent suppression of demonstrations, Mr Moi was forced to bend to demands for constitutional reform but, with constituency boundaries drawn in KANU's favour and up to three million young voters likely to vote for the Opposition left off the new register, these have meant little in practice. If hope is denied, violence could return. As Kenyans know, wounded beasts are dangerous.

STEADY, EDDIE

The Governor should resist raising interest rates further

Governors of the Bank of England are paid to be cryptic. The biggest sin for a Governor — as bad as a Chancellor giving away Budget secrets — is to let slip an opinion on the future direction of interest rates. So it was that City traders pored over Eddie George's interview on the *Today* programme yesterday for rumour hints as to which way rates would go. By the evening they were still unsure: would the economy slow down of its own accord, or was the Governor planning to help it to do so with a rate rise?

What is uncontested is that the economy needs to slow down in 1998. It cannot keep up the past year's rate of growth without a resurgence of inflation. But the critical question is whether interest rates need to rise still further — on top of the five increases since the general election — or whether the action taken so far will prove to be enough to produce a slowdown without a recession: what economists like to call a "soft landing".

Mr George sees risks on both sides. If rates are not raised again, there is the risk of inflation. If they are, there is the risk of recession. The balance between the two risks, however, should not be seen as equal. It makes more sense to err on the side of optimism, to assume that inflation is a lesser danger than recession.

Almost all the economic indicators point that way. Consumer spending before Christmas was modest — and if it picks up in the sales, that shows that bargain hunting is still the prevalent mentality, a healthy sign for inflation. House prices are growing only slowly, and the increase is predicted to act as a cushion to the bottom has been reached.

Mr George and his Monetary Policy Committee have so far taken the right decisions. We trust that they will continue to do so in 1998. The peak in interest rates should by now have been reached. The Bank can afford to sit back and watch its past actions take effect.

STAFF OF LIFE

In the British breadbin less consumption means more choice

Five years ago bread rationing was ended. Today that sounds like a statistic from a nutritionist. But in 1948 it was the sign that the lean years of hunger were finally coming to an end. Now that 50 years have passed, the choice of our daily bread is greater than ever but in place on our tables less conspicuous.

Other rationed goods such as butter and sugar, meat and marmalade were missed more keenly. But Corporal Joneses also kept bread "under the counter". And the Ministry of Food invented Potato Pete to encourage people to eat one of the few foods not in short supply. His recipes on the Kitchen Front recommended mashed potato sandwiches.

Even after the war, rations were cut again. Supplies of essential foods now had to be shared with the liberated but starving continental countries. Rationing, high taxes and shortages had bitten deep into the way of life of the average family. Britons had reduced their consumption of food to four-fifths of their pre-peace level. To ration bread, one of the oldest and cheapest forms of Western food, was as serious as it was in ancient Rome. So the return of white bread without coupons instead of the gritty, grey "Austerity" loaf, was a national foodmark.

Since 1948 consumption of bread has more than halved. Today *Economist* statistics estimate the weekly household consumption of bread in Great Britain at 758 grammes per person. Bread now represents 4 per cent of domestic spending on food, costing £1.99.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 8XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Main obstacle to Ulster stability

From Mr J. F. Q. Switzer

Sir, You rightly compliment the Northern Ireland Secretary on having "wisely but belatedly" acknowledged the need to "move quickly to rebuild confidence among Northern Ireland's peaceable pro-Union majority" (leading article, December 29). That peaceable majority has felt increasingly deserted, particularly since the disastrous statement by Peter Brooke, then Northern Ireland Secretary, in a speech on November 9, 1990, that the Government had "no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland".

This was certainly interpreted by the IRA and by Irish nationalists generally as meaning that the Government no longer cared about sovereignty, and the stream of concessions to republicans during the current political talks has helped to convince everyone, Unionists and nationalists alike, that this interpretation was correct.

In the background stands the Constitution of the Republic, which states that "the national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland". It is intolerable that we should have representatives of the Dublin Government taking part in discussions on the future of a part of our country when they already lay claim to jurisdiction over it.

Furthermore, these representatives have their hands tied by the decision of the Dublin Supreme Court in March 1990 that "the reintegration of the national territory is a constitutional imperative". Genuine discussions between the Republic and the United Kingdom are thus rendered impossible.

In the Downing Street declaration of December 15, 1993, the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland made "a solemn commitment to promote co-operation ... on the basis of ... obligations under international agreements" (report, December 16, 1993). The Irish claim to British territory is not only incompatible with the Republic's membership of the European Union but patently contravenes the provisions of the Helsinki Agreement.

The most important single action that our new Government could take to re-establish political stability in Northern Ireland is to persuade the Dublin Government to adopt an ethical foreign policy in conformity with the Downing Street declaration and to repudiate its illegal claim to British territory.

The United Kingdom is about to assume the presidency of the European Union. Can we now hope for speedy action in Brussels to end a constitutional absurdity that has no place in the Europe of 1998?

Yours faithfully,
J. F. Q. SWITZER,
Sidney Sussex College,
Cambridge CB2 3HU.
December 30.

Maze inquiry

From Mr Oliver A. W. Lodge

Sir, Appointing HM Chief Inspector of Prisons to conduct an inquiry into security at the Maze prison (report, December 30) is certainly a positive step, but it cannot be for him to attribute ultimate responsibility when the prison authorities have already recognised specific deficiencies by introducing random searches of cells. Is no one going to resign, or is it a wain-and-swoon-blamed policy?

One does not have to have an elephantine memory to recall that before coming to office the Labour Party firmly held the view that ministers, indeed Cabinet ministers, should resign when serious breaches of prison security arose. May we know what has changed their minds?

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER A. W. LODGE,
2 Nindred Road, SW16 6SY.
December 30.

Prison education

From Dr Paul G. Ellis

Sir, May I suggest a further step beyond Joel Parkes's suggestion (article, Law, December 16; letters, December 22) of offering prisoners the option of studying for an educational qualification as a condition for a lesser sentence?

Why not go the whole way — prisoners qualify for earlier release not merely by studying for an educational qualification, but by educating themselves into an improved, approved and appropriate career/job offer which will enable them not only to support themselves, but to do so better than formerly?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL G. ELLIS,
c/o City University Business School,
Sebastian Street, EC1V 0JA.
pell@city.ac.uk

Home births

From Mr Paul Kettleridge

Sir, The nursing home I was born in (letters, December 16, 22) is now an old people's home. No doubt they will have me back.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL KETTLE RIDGE,
Bankside Cottage, 7 Church Street,
North Marston MK18 3PH.
December 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 8XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

The Church's role in hunting debate

From Mr N. R. Cowling

Sir, According to the RSPCA, "at least 200,000 foxes are killed every year by shooting, snaring or road accidents. Only about 15,000 are killed by hunting." (Times advertisement, November 7).

The Archbishop of Wales and his colleagues (letter, December 26) urge the Government to legislate against hunting, which accounts for about 7 per cent of violent fox deaths, even though this would cause unemployment and homelessness. They express no concern for the 93 per cent of foxes which meet painful and terrifying deaths by means other than hunting.

Meanwhile I have seen it estimated that the largely urban and suburban pet cats of Britain kill about 70 million wild birds every year. Unlike the foxes, many of these are in declining populations because of man's relentless exploitation of their habitats.

Is there any chance of a pamphlet from the Christian Socialist Movement on the place of wild birds in modern Britain and the ethics of keeping cats?

Yours faithfully,
N. R. COWLING,
Eason Cottage, Long Lane,
Manston, Newton Abbot TQ13 9XB.
December 28.

From Mr Paul M. Cooper

Sir, I am a churchman in a rural community that has used the horse for transport, agriculture and pleasure for many generations. The Christian Socialist Movement, based in London, should surely be a unifying and non-divisive organisation.

In this normally tolerant land what has happened to freedom of choice — hunting, T-bone steaks, doorstep?

Yours etc.
PAUL M. COOPER,
Millstream Cottage, Mill Lane,
Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 8DJ.
December 26.

From Mrs Bindy Large

Sir, The Archbishop of Wales and others refer to the 8th-century French bishop, St Hubert, "who was prompted by his Christian vocation to renounce deerhunting as a sport". This would appear most unlikely since St Hubert, in the Roman Catholic world, continues to be patron of huntsmen.

The legend that the stag he was

hunting one Good Friday had a cross between its antlers is said to have caused him to enter the cloister and become Bishop of Liege, but it seems that this may not have interfered with his subsequent hunting.

I once visited a small country church in southwest France at the time of his feast day, November 3, and was interested to see branches of greenery set against the altar, together with a large pair of antlers.

By my calculation over 55 per cent of those on it received honours which went with the job.

The Queen set a good example at the beginning of her reign by abolishing the presentation at court of young women of no virtue other than sometimes their family background, but more often the depth of their purses, and greedy, impoverished dowagers willing to make a bob or two by sponsorship.

Only two categories of person should be honoured: those who have performed some signal service beyond their duty or job and those who have shown outstanding heroism — no one else.

Yours faithfully,
BINDA LARGE,
Vine Cottage,
Fressingfield, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5PA.
December 29.

From Mr Anthony G. Phillips

Sir, Many will share the bishops' view that how we treat animals is a moral question. It has nothing to do with what the law allows or forbids. Even the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, which many had hoped would protect many species, classifies them according to their economic value.

Hence foxes are pursued because they threaten livestock. Myxomatosis (which has caused untold suffering to millions of rabbits) was arguably introduced when arable farming was financially threatened. Badgers, another protected species, are not allowed to threaten valuable milk supplies. The export of calves, which has seen widespread public condemnation, exists for economic reasons. Even the beef crisis is discussed not so much in terms of animal suffering as of (quite justifiable) concern for farm livelihoods.

Every species is given its price. Let us pretend otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY G. PHILLIPS,
32 Upper Street, Salisbury SP2 8LY.

From the Reverend Canon Brian Hebblethwaite

Sir, I am sorry that Bishop Montefiore (letter, December 26) should see the fox as the bane of his hen in either/or terms. Surely, as a good Anglican, he should have seen this as a both/and matter and signed both the letter you published.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN HEBBLETHWAITE,
Queens' College,
Cambridge CB3 9ET.
December 26.

Complaint of flaw in honours system

From Mr John B. J. Lidstone

Sir, Simon Jenkins (December 27) despairs of the present honours system. When John Major's "classics" society failed to bring about any change, I hoped that the "people's" Prime Minister might improve matters. But his first list was just as flawed as those of his predecessor.

By my calculation over 55 per cent of those on it received honours which went with the job.

The Queen set a good example at the beginning of her reign by abolishing the presentation at court of young women of no virtue other than sometimes their family background, but more often the depth of their purses, and greedy, impoverished dowagers willing to make a bob or two by sponsorship.

Only two categories of person should be honoured: those who have performed some signal service beyond their duty or job and those who have shown outstanding heroism — no one else.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN B. J. LIDSTONE,
East Lodge, 2 Orchard Fields,
Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8SN.
December 29.

Spirit of giving

From Mrs R. Emmett

Sir, I was interested in your article of December 17 on the imaginative Heifer Project for US citizens who want to donate presents rather than money to Third World families (see also letter, December 22).

I recently learned of another way in which North Americans show concern for, and give assistance to, the less fortunate. When a couple marry, if both bride and groom have previously been living independently and enter the marriage with two of everything, it is becoming the trend for them to suggest donations to charities or gifts to the Third World, in lieu of wedding presents.

No doubt this idea will wend its way across the Atlantic to the United Kingdom. Even here, two toasters are sufficient for two people!

Yours faithfully,
R. EMMETT,
El4 Pine Grange,
Bath Road, Bournemouth BH1 2PL.

Gift or loan?

From Mr Peter J. K. Tither

Sir, I hesitate to contradict the author of *Debrett's New Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners*, quoted by Grace Bradberry in "The end of the affair" (December 18). However, the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 provides that gifts between engaged couples, including the ring, are only presumed (my italics) to be absolute gifts.

Evidence rebutting that presumption may show gifts to be conditional, for example upon marriage, in which case they may be recovered by law, under the Married Women's Property Act and otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. K. TITHER,
The Old Bakery,
Cydwell, Carmarthenshire SA17 4UU.

Dome spectacular

From Mr Derek W. Moss

Sir, The proposal to scrap the 12,000-seat auditorium in the Millennium Dome for a piazza visible from "all corners" of the dome (News in brief, December 24) will create an intriguing engineering conundrum. A dome with corners will be a unique millennium experience in itself.

NEWS

New year honours for teachers

■ A headteacher has been knighted and another has become a dame in a New Year's Honours list that focuses strongly on education. The list also has its usual clutch of awards for celebrities, sporting stars and the arts.

Elton John is one of many who played a part in the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, to be honoured. He is knighted. The officer who organised the coffin party and the hearse driver also receive awards Pages 1, 8, 9, 23 and 44

Funeral brings town to a standstill

■ Portadown came to a halt for the funeral of Billy Wright. His Loyalist Volunteer Force terrorist group had "requested" businesses to close as a mark of respect and by midday all shops were shut and the streets deserted. "What choice do we have?" one shopkeeper said Pages 1, 2

Some like it hot

This year has been the third warmest for three centuries; only a cold January prevented it taking the title from 1990 Page 1

Waiting game

Demand for people to serve at parties on December 31, 1997 is so far outstripping supply that waiters are commanding £1,000 for the night Page 1

Demolition job

The architect who designed the British Library has blamed the abuse heaped on his building by the Prince of Wales and Gerald Kaufman for destroying his practice Page 2

Doing 'bird'

A businessman was held in police cells for three hours accused of harassing a neighbour's pigeons by hanging a plastic owl in his garden and singing *Come Fly With Me* Page 3

Modern parable

A bishop's son has written a 20th century version of the medieval mystery plays where Jesus is a beggar, St Peter a foul-mouthed mugger and St Matthew a commodities broker Page 3

Tunnel vision

A couple are exploring a network of tunnels under their Somerset country house after being put on the trail by an old man's memories of being sent down one of them as a servant boy Page 4

Garden furniture in classic style

■ Christopher Cattell has designed the ultimate range of self-assembly furniture: reviving techniques used by ancient Greeks and Egyptians he has planted saplings that he expects to grow into tables and chairs. "You don't need screws, nails or glue," he says. "All you need is a seed. Then you sit back for four years for a stool and six years for a chair" Page 6



On the mend: a puffin prepares to return to the wild after having oil cleaned from its feathers by the RSPCA at Taunton

Memorial garden

A £10 million garden set in 16 acres outside Kensington Palace has emerged as the most likely monument to Diana, Princess of Wales Page 6

Inspired guess

A retired physicist believes that he has discovered the identity of the man who inspired Shakespeare's sonnets by unravelling the complex dedication in the first printed edition Page 7

Luxor shunned

Abed el-Naser no longer tries to entice people into his floating papyrus museum near Luxor. "There is no one coming. They are all frightened. Most of us will be ruined," he said Page 12

Poll challenge

Kenya faced the prospect of renewed unrest as both President Moi's Government and the opposition complained that the general election was rigged Page 13

Siege killing

Prisoners holding 600 hostages in a maximum security jail in Brazil are reported to have murdered a fellow convict and thrown his body out of a window Page 14

Tiger economy

Millions of Japanese are praying for wealth and prosperity in the new year — but many fear the national economic fortunes will get worse rather than better in the Year of the Tiger Page 15

Weather

■ Christopher Cattell has designed the ultimate range of self-assembly furniture: reviving techniques used by ancient Greeks and Egyptians he has planted saplings that he expects to grow into tables and chairs. "You don't need screws, nails or glue," he says. "All you need is a seed. Then you sit back for four years for a stool and six years for a chair" Page 6

Peas record: City advisers reaped £1.3 billion in fees from takeovers this year as a wave of consolidation swept over the power, drinks and financial industries Page 23

New number: A former president of Trinity College, Cambridge, who gave up accountancy to manage rock bands, brings his business to the stock market Page 23

Economic forecast: The economy will need to slow down in the New Year in order to ensure steady growth, the Governor of the Bank of England said Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 19.9 points to close at 512.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 105.6 to 104.8 after a fall from \$1.6746 to \$1.6566 and from DM2.9883 to DM2.9673 Page 26

Football: The England striker Alan Shearer has made a remarkable recovery from the ankle injury that threatened his career and is so far ahead of schedule that he might be fit to play for Newcastle United within a month Page 44

Rugby union: Bath defeated Northampton 26-3 at the Recreation Ground, bringing to an end a run of three victories by the visiting side Page 32

Athletics: Head-to-head competitions will be outlawed when the International Amateur Athletic Federation bans races with fewer than three runners Page 44

Crickets: A maiden Test century by Jacques Kallis enabled South Africa to hold on for a draw against Australia in Melbourne Page 38

Millennium dame: She is tipped for an Oscar nomination for *Mrs Brown*, and is back in the latest Bond movie, but Judi Dench's first love is still the stage Page 32

Cube dudie: Not content with being an Olympic gymnast, Paul Bowler has launched a second career with the Cirque du Soleil Page 32

Rising star: Jason Broder's huge photorealist portraits have won him a prize and a one-man London show. The next stage, he says, is to paint pictures as big as a cinema screen Page 32

Off stage: There will be widespread confusion, fudge, semantic fiddling, compromise, frustration and expense — Benedict Nightingale predicts a grim year for theatre Page 33

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Lease hope: Will proposed reforms make it easier for tenants to buy the lease on their properties? Amanda Loose reports Page 36

On the record: The Land Registry is hoping to restore the price paid for a property to the details on its register of properties Page 35

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On the record: The Land Registry is hoping to restore the price paid for a property to the details on its register of properties Page 35

Making their mark: Most pretentious film? *The English Patient*: Ugliest bloke? Chris Evans. National trauma? The death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Bad sportsman? Michael Schumacher (no contest). Bill Frost has not entirely serious look at the highs and lows of the year Pages 16, 17

ALISTAIR HORNE

Where did all the flowers of 1998 go? Some became ageing hippies, or nurseries the politically correct in the universities Page 18

PETER STOTHARD

If I had asked my father his list of passions this week, it would have been headed by the Farleigh Hospice in Chelmsford, whose powers of love and peace-bringing should be celebrated in sky-written letters of gold Page 18

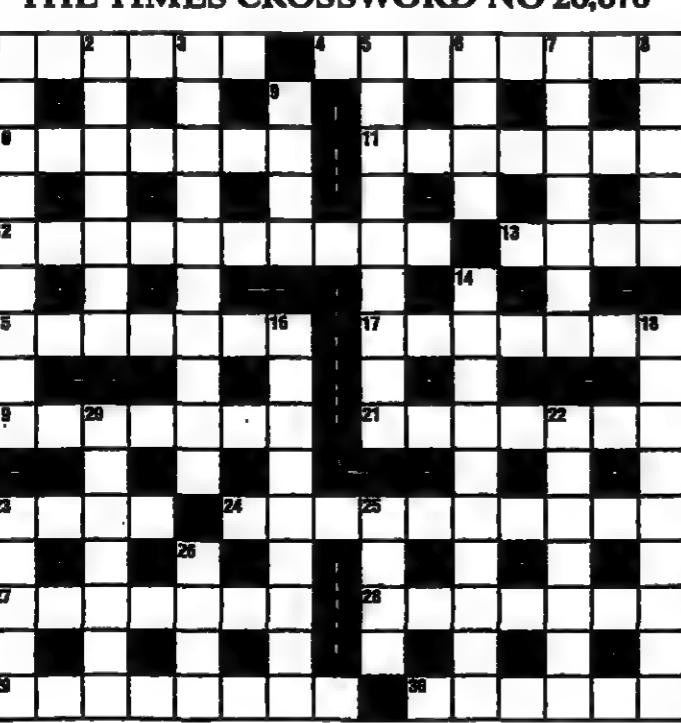
P. DELVES BROUGHTON

Fred had a point. In his round-about way, he was saying new year celebrations are the pits. By the time 2000 comes Britain will be in a state of nervous breakdown, like a deeply insecure host grinning wildly and turning up the music Page 18

Sir John Megaw, former Lord Justice of Appeal: David Schramm, anthropologist Ivor Clement, former Labour MP Page 21

Northern Ireland: Maze prison inquiry; Church's role in hunting debate; honours system; spirit of giving; doorstep ban; eating in France Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,676



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THE TIMES

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England's cricket
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31 1997

Takeovers fuel fees record of £1.3bn for advisers

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CITY advisers reaped a record £1.3 billion in fees from UK takeovers in 1997 as a wave of consolidation swept the power, drinks and financial industries.

British investment banks had claim to the lion's share of the spoils in a boom year, which saw a total of 1,801 deals with a combined value of £64.1 billion, including 12 transactions with a price tag of £1 billion or higher.

Acquisitions Monthly, the specialist magazine, said that 1997 marked the third consecutive year of strong mergers and acquisitions activity in the UK, with the highest number of public bids since 1989. However, the year fell just short of the 1995 'all-time record'.

Its analysis of both public and private deals during the year puts Lazard Brothers at the top of the league table of

third place went to Schroders dispelling the myth that British independent banks are unable to compete against the so-called bulge bracket banks, the big American houses, on billion-dollar deals. Schroders notched up £1.3 billion in transactions, including the takeovers of East Midlands and London Electricity.

However, the US banks continued to tighten their grip on the UK mergers and acquisitions market. The big four — Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch and JP Morgan — all moved up the league table by offering advice on deals worth £26.7 billion. This was in part because their US clients made several acquisitions in the UK, most notably in the energy sector.

The league table also seems to lend weight to the controversial decision by Derek Wanless, NatWest's chief executive, to hive off part of its market business in a two-way deal with Bankers Trust and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. NatWest Markets was ranked 16th in its home market.

BZW, sold by Barclays to Credit Suisse First Boston for £100 million in October, fared better by taking tenth position, ahead of JP Morgan, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. It advised on 24 private and public bids with a value of £4.76 billion.

Philip Healey, editor of *Acquisitions Monthly*, said the £1.3 billion in fees reflected not only the large number of deals but also the complexity of the transactions that had pushed up the costs. He added that the figure was likely to be an underestimate because it included all legal, accounting and public relations fees.

"There is every sign that 1998 will be just as buoyant as 1997 in terms of merger and acquisition activity. In December alone, 18 public bids have been announced," he said. The spate of takeovers was part of a worldwide trend, Mr Healey added. Globally, 13,857 deals worth \$202 billion were completed, compared with its 1997 operating system and its Internet Explorer programme.

In court papers the department says: "Microsoft is in clear violation of both the injunction's letter and spirit." The company said: "Poorly informed lawyers have no option for software design."

The Justice Department is seeking a \$1 million fine for every day the company maintains its present stance. The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee meets to discuss Microsoft's stampede, page 27

Source: *Acquisitions Monthly*. The previous year's ranking is shown in brackets

City advisers. The UK investment bank, 50 per cent owned by Pearson, the leisure and media group, advised on 34 transactions with a total worth of £2.9 billion.

Lazard won this accolade partly because of its involvement in the biggest deal of 1997, the £24 billion merger of drinks giant Guinness and Grand Metropolitan to form Diageo. But the firm also advised US rival Merrill Lynch on its £3.1 billion takeover of Mercury Asset Management, as well as Lafarge on its £1.8 billion bid for Redland.

SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the other key adviser in the Guinness-Grand Metropolitan merger, took second place. The Swiss-owned bank, which announced a £35 billion merger with UBS earlier this month, helped to negotiate £19.8 billion worth of UK takeovers. Adding the business of its new partner UBS, SBC Warburg's tally would rise to nearly £26 billion.

Commentary, page 25

Microsoft battle escalates

THE war of words between Microsoft and the US Justice Department, escalated as both parties prepare for a courtroom showdown over antitrust charges next month.

The Justice Department, which accuses Microsoft of abusing its market strength, alleges the company is "jerryrigging" its own computer software to circumvent a court order that forces it to unbundle the Windows 95 operating system and its Internet Explorer programme.

However, he admitted that nobody knows how fast or soon the slowdown would occur. He noted that, in its November *Inflation Report*, the Bank had not anticipated recession and, indeed, felt that the greater risk was that growth would remain too strong.

The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee meets to discuss Microsoft's stampede, page 27

Confidence rises, page 24

Governor expects economy to slow

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday expressed optimism that the British economy will slow down to a more sustainable pace in the new year.

Speaking on BBC Radio's *Today* programme, the Governor said: "We have been growing at an unsustainably rapid rate over the last 12 months, so the economy will need to slow down during the course of next year. And we believe it will slow down."

However, he admitted that nobody knows how fast or soon the slowdown would occur. He noted that, in its November *Inflation Report*, the Bank had not anticipated recession and, indeed, felt that the greater risk was that growth would remain too strong.

The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee meets to discuss Microsoft's stampede, page 27

interest rates next week and is not expected to raise base rates as it gathers as much information as possible about the Christmas shopping season and whether there are genuine signs of a weakening in consumer activity.

Mr George hinted that he would like to stay on as Governor for a further two years. He said he hadn't thought about it, but added: "I find it difficult to imagine not being there."

However, he admitted that nobody knows how fast or soon the slowdown would occur. He noted that, in its November *Inflation Report*, the Bank had not anticipated recession and, indeed, felt that the greater risk was that growth would remain too strong.

The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee meets to discuss Microsoft's stampede, page 27

Confidence rises, page 24

Sanctuary set for reverse takeover

BY CHRIS AYRES

A FORMER president of Trinity College, Cambridge, who gave up a career in accountancy to manage rock bands, has completed a deal to bring his business to the stock market.

Andrew Taylor, who founded the Sanctuary Group in 1976 with Rod Smallwood, also a Cambridge graduate, has orchestrated a £15 million reverse takeover of his entertainment conglomerate by Burlington, a shell company. The two men will both own 20 per cent stakes in the merged company, worth about £4.6 million each.

Sanctuary began life as a music management company, most famous for looking after

Iron Maiden, the rock band discovered by Mr Taylor in 1979. It now also owns Cloud 9, the television company, which has created 60 hours of programmes since 1995, including adaptations of Enid Blyton books. Sanctuary's sales for 1996 were £18 million with operating profits of £300,000.

One of its divisions, Sanctuary Music Productions (SMP), is listed separately on the Alternative Investment Market. The division, which is 60 per cent owned by Sanctuary, is worth about £7 million. SMP owns recording studios at Shepherd's Bush, West London, plus a licensing, pro-

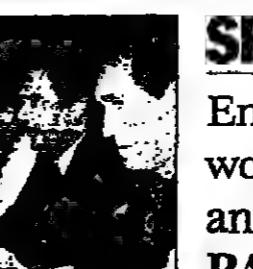
duction and promotions business. It also owns stakes in several record labels, one of which has signed Huf and Herb, an up-and-coming dance act.

Burlington, whose shares were suspended at 22p when talks began, will buy Sanctuary through a 25p-per-share open offer to existing shareholders, raising £14.6 million. Mr Taylor will become chief executive while Mr Smallwood becomes the director responsible for music management services. Si, the venture capitalist, will hold a 10 per cent stake.

Tempus, page 26



Music man: Andrew Taylor orchestrated Sanctuary deal



England's cricket
woe: who to blame
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BUSINESS
TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5122.3	(+19.9)
Yield 100 share	2.15%	(+0.07%)
Nikkei	15250.74	(+482.56)
New York	7869.64	(+77.23)
Dow Jones	982.98	(+9.63)

US RATE

Federal Fund	5.54%	(+0.01)
Long Bond	102.11	(+0.02)
Yield	5.38%	(+0.02%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	77.0%	(77.0%)
Life long gilt future (Mar)	120.1%	(122)
Yield	121.5%	(121.5%)

STERLING

New York	1.9843	(1.6705)
London	1.8584	(1.8748)
DM	9.9677	(9.9688)
FF	9.9291	(9.9290)
Yen	12.0119	(12.0140)
Euro	10.48	(10.56)

\$ DOLLAR

London	1.7808	(1.7885)
DM	9.9949	(9.9885)
FF	1.4078	(1.4055)
Yen	15.0119	(15.0140)

\$ Index

Tokyo close Yen	128.84
London close	128.80 (128.80)
Brut 15-day (Mar)	916.00 (916.00)

* denotes midday trading price

Gold	389.15	(389.15)
London close	389.15 (389.15)	

London close	128.80 (128.80)
Brut 15-day (Mar)	916.00 (916.00)

London close	128.80 (128.80)
Brut 15-day (Mar)	916.00 (916.00)

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US consumer confidence rises to 28-year high

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

US CONSUMER confidence has unexpectedly leapt to a 28-year high, miffing bearish voices that predicted America was heading for a recession after almost seven years of fast growth. The consumer confidence index rose from 128.1 to 134.5 in December, an increase of 5 per cent, according to a Conference Board report

published yesterday. In June 1969, the index had reached 137.9.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 30 points in morning trading on Wall Street. Consumer confidence is of vital importance for the US economy as it accounts for two thirds of the country's overall economic activity.

Lynn Franco, associate director of the Conference Board's consumer research centre, said: "The strength of the US economy, especially the labour

market, continues to lift consumers' spirits and bolster their expectations. Current readings are the highest this year, and continue to ride at historically strong levels. Consumers have high expectations for 1998." Two sub-indices also soared to new highs. The "future expects" index this month rose from 108.9 to 116.4 and the "present situation" index rose from 156.8 to 161.7, another 28-year record.

Wall Street had expected consumer confi-

dence to fall. Analysts at Standard & Poor's said: "Although a strong case can be made for underlying fundamentals — ie, employment, income, mortgages rates, inflation — being at the strongest point of the year, we expect confidence to fall." Analysts were expecting a fall of up to 5 per cent.

For the coming months, economists are now predicting a minor slowdown rather than the onset of a recession.

Sterling's strength spoils prospects

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE strength of the pound has marred business prospects for the new year, according to the Confederation of British Industry. Its view is echoed by the Institute of Export which predicts that many firms will have to reduce exports in 1998 because the level of sterling is crippling profits.

Sir Colin Marshall, President of the CBI, today says: "A lower and more sustainable exchange rate would be the best present Britain's exporters could have going into 1998. Despite good news in many areas of the economy, the strength of sterling has had a dramatic effect on many firms trying to win overseas orders. In core export markets, like Germany and France, the price of sterling has risen dramatically in 18 months — up by over 25 per cent in the year-and-a-half to November against the mark and the franc. This has resulted in a

fall-off in export orders and a loss of confidence in future performance."

His new year message to CBI members was underlined by Ian Campbell, director-general of the Institute of Export, who said that companies would not be able to continue to maintain the low prices and margin squeezes that they had experienced this year. He said: "We are getting very concerned that interest rates are remaining high and therefore continuing to keep sterling high. The export community is far from bullish. We are already starting to see some companies relinquish market share and this will carry on next year unless the exchange rate falls."

Mr Campbell said prospects for exporters in 1998 had been further damaged by the collapse in South-East Asian markets. The region had been targeted by many exporters as a key opportunity for expansion.

Sir Colin said: "Exports form a vital part of the UK economy. A lower level for sterling, with less volatility against other major competitors, would have a positive effect on our performance as a whole and would build on the encouraging growth we have witnessed in the domestic market."

The CBI President also called for greater flexibility among European countries in labour market reform than their adherence to a European model. His call comes as the Government prepares key changes for union recognition in its *Fairness at Work* White Paper and as the UK is poised to take over the presidency of the European Union. The CBI and the Trades Union Congress have been sharply divided over how union recognition should be implemented.

The number portability applies not just to numbers



Don Cruickshank says phone numbers can be kept if customers switch operator

Phone users get to keep their personal numbers

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

OFTEL, the telecommunications regulatory body, said yesterday it had agreed with all the leading UK telephone companies to provide number portability, allowing customers to keep their numbers when they change operators.

Until recently only BT was required to provide number portability. The condition will now be included in the licences of all telephone operators, including the cable companies.

The number portability applies not just to numbers

within a particular area, but also to freephone and local-rate call services.

Recently the four mobile telephone operators agreed to introduce number portability from the end of 1998.

Since number portability first became possible in June 1996 more than 150,000 numbers have been "ported" and the rate is currently around 5,000 a week.

Don Cruickshank, the telecommunications regulator, who retires on March 31, said yesterday: "Now customers

can move between any operator to ensure they are getting the best quality of service at the best price without the inconvenience of having to change the numbers."

Ofot also said yesterday it planned to hold its first public meeting in February to discuss its plans and targets for the next two years.

The meeting on February 10 in the Great Hall, King's College London, is designed to give both residential and business telephone users a say on Ofot's future strategy.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.48	2.49
Austria Sch	21.84	20.19
Belgium Fr	84.26	85.24
Canada \$	1.21	1.21
China Cny	0.211	0.214
Denmark Kr	11.98	10.95
Finland Mark	9.82	9.77
France Fr	10.20	10.20
Germany Dm	1.11	1.11
Greece Dr	10.65	12.45
Hong Kong \$	13.65	13.75
Iceland Kr	1.75	1.75
Ireland Sht	1.11	1.11
Italy Lira	30.67	28.50
Japan Yen	22.00	21.20
Malta Lm	0.625	0.625
Netherlands Gld	1.531	1.525
New Zealand \$	2.05	2.05
Norway Kr	12.75	12.75
Portugal Esc	11.10	10.90
South Africa R	6.75	7.75
Spain Pt	22.25	24.50
Sweden Kr	12.10	12.10
Switzerland Fr	2.18	2.24
Turkey Lira	346.445	362.77
USA \$	1.701	1.616

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Gilt yields refer to 10-year UK government gilts. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION, COMPANIES COURT, IN THE MATTER OF THE GROUP PLC
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT on 1977 presented to the Master of the High Court of Justice, the notice of the reduction of the capital of the above company from £100,000 to £20,000 and the cancellation of the share premium account of the above company in the amount of £80,000. A list of names and addresses of the shareholders of the above company is available for inspection at the office of the Master of the High Court of Justice, 25 Old Bailey, London EC4A 2DZ, for the period mentioned. Notice is given that the meeting may receive information about the above company in the course of the hearing of the above company in the High Court of Justice, 25 Old Bailey, London EC4A 2DZ, on 1977, at 10.30 am, at which time the above company will be called upon to show cause why the reduction of the capital of the above company should not be allowed. 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The Cassandras who have long predicted the demise of the British merchant bank would do well to study the league table of takeovers in 1997. Three of the top five slots go to independent UK-owned houses, giving the lie to the claim that our merchant banks are a spent force.

Few will be surprised by the pre-eminence of Lazard Brothers, which comfortably sits atop the league table. Since a critical decision more than ten years ago to shun equities trading and stick to corporate advice, Lazard's has given the US banking houses a good run for their money.

A decade of solid relationship-building and minimum turnover in staff, coupled with a modicum of luck — the bulk of Lazard's clients this year have been the targets of agreed bids — has been sufficient to propel the bank to the top this year.

More surprising is the performance of Schroders, over whom many a foreign suitor is believed to have cast an envious eye. It ranks third behind SBC Warburg Dillon Read, after supervising some 37 transactions with a combined book value of £12.3 billion. NM Rothschild, the third UK bank, takes fifth place, again by concentrating on corporate advice.

The league table would also appear to vindicate the decisions by Barclays and NatWest to hive off their investment banks to foreign competitors. BZW, sold to Credit Suisse First Boston for a

mere £100 million, squeezes in at number ten, while NatWest Markets, divided among Bankers Trust and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell for a slightly more respectable price, has to be content with 16th place. Blue-blooded Barclays, now the property of Société Générale, is nowhere to be seen.

And while the American investment banks continue to climb the league table — Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley are ranked fourth and sixth consecutively — the German-owned houses Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson are losing ground. If 1998 proves to be as rich in mergers and acquisitions as this year, then it could be crunch time for the two banks.

Meanwhile, the middle ground looks increasingly crowded. Chase Brothers may have marked this out as its territory, but the accountancy firms are mounting a strong challenge. Arthur Andersen has stolen into the top 15 for the first time after advising on no fewer than 64 deals, worth close to £3 billion. Targeting more modestly-sized companies — Andersen's deals average out at just £46 million apiece — clearly

pays. As more accountancy firms merge, they will take an increasing interest in this market, and a bigger share of the business. The American's may have the global market sown up, but the British

can still call the shots at home.

Days of the hostile bid fondly recalled

Long-serving City folk will fondly recall what used to be known as the hostile bid. For the benefit of younger readers, these were lively affairs indeed, where the company — dubbed the predator — launched an unsolicited offer for another, usually a competitor that had fallen on hard times. Besieuted executives from one board, normally prim and proper, let their hair down for the best part of two months and hurled abuse and general derision at executives on the rival board.

These then responded by

invoking every known dirty trick in the book to repel the invasion. Advisers, with no expense spared, worked around the clock to produce documents and circulars running into thousands of pages of information to support their case, little of which was actually read by shareholders, whose vote ultimately decided the fate of the company.

And, finally, the bid ended. Mostly, the predator won and defeated executives moved on to their next job with a decent payoff to ease the pain of loss of office. A surprisingly large number of executives and advisers who had behaved in such a wretched fashion to one another subsequently ended up working together soon after on the next takeover bid. And so on. It was so much fun.

Sadly, these days have long since gone. Yes, occasionally a board puts up a token resistance on day one of a takeover bid. By day five the terms have been

twisted, jobs have been made safe and everybody is happy, so it is recommended, the night is over before properly begun.

Yesterday's mergers and acquisitions Monthly lists the top ten deals of 1997. Just one, the smallest, is hostile: the £1 billion offer for Allied Colloids.

Hostile bids attracted criticism, not least from the defeated boards. The charge was that such bids undermined the fabric of a business and encouraged short-termism. Management took its eye off the ball for too long and, in any case, the enlarged business rarely delivered the goods.

This was true but only up to a point. Hostile bids forced executives out of their glass houses to justify their corporate strategy and to put their past achievements into context. Shareholders suddenly had access to new information and were given a chance to influence the future

management of their company. Either that, or they could take the money and run.

Agreed takeovers have a costiness about them that causes unease. Mergers are presented as done deals and too few questions are asked about the rationale for agreement. Assertions about future market trends go unchallenged. BT's proposed merger with MCI would have dramatically transformed the business, yet shareholders nodded it through without a second's thought.

Opposition to the Guinness/GrandMet merger, the biggest in the UK, was limited to one Frenchman with his own axe to grind. If Diageo ever fails, there will be no one there to say "I told you so".

Crumps of comfort for Asian economies

The good news for Asia and, it must be said, there has not been much of that around recently, is that the price of oil has barreled out and is unlikely to recover in 1998.

That will dismay anyone working in the North Sea, which produces some of the world's

most expensive crude. But the reality is that Asia accounts for more than a quarter of the world's 76 million barrels per day of demand and is responsible for nearly 50 per cent of global growth in oil consumption over the past five years.

Asian economies are heavy importers of crude. Energy costs have already escalated because of the devaluation of Asian currencies against the US dollar and refinery profits have sunk. A rise in the dollar price of crude at this stage would precipitate the recession that is already almost inevitable across the region.

Refiners in Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Singapore are cutting back crude purchases. Yesterday, India, one of Asia's biggest oil importers, revised down its expectations of oil product purchases by 13 per cent.

What has really spooked the market is a pledge by Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest supplier, to raise output by 10 per cent from January. Other Opec members will follow suit although most were already breaking their formal quotas.

But the Saudi uplift in output poses a very real threat to oil analysts' target of an \$18 a barrel average price for 1998. Riyadh was betting that steadily rising global demand for oil would mean a winning combination of higher exports at a continued high price but this now looks unrealistic.

GKN to buy US company

By MARTIN BARROW

GKN, the UK engineering company, has agreed to acquire Armstrong Rim & Wheel for up to \$54 million (around £32 million), it was announced yesterday.

GKN is to pay an initial consideration of \$52 million for 95 per cent of the company's equity, with the balance to be acquired over the next 12 months.

Armstrong, based in Iowa, makes wheels and hubs for agricultural and off-highway vehicles in America and Canada. In 1996, the last year for which audited accounts are available, pre-tax profits were \$3.7 million. Net assets were \$11 million at the end of this year.

Armstrong will become part of GKN's agritech division, which supplies components and systems to the agricultural, off-highway and construction industries, and will enhance its presence in North America.

The acquisition, which will be funded from GKN's existing cash resources, is conditional upon clearance from US anti-trust authorities.

GKN shares were unchanged at £12.50 yesterday.

Top candidate resurfaces at Millennium

By DOMINIC WALSH

JOHN WILSON, former chief operating officer of Hilton International, is expected to be appointed as chief executive at Millennium & Copthorne Hotels in the new year, more than six months after he was originally due to take up the post.

Mr Wilson has been on gardening leave since June after his departure from Hilton, part of the Ladbrooke Group, became bogged down in contractual wranglings.

It is understood that his planned move to Millennium provoked fears that he might take with him his best staff members and a number of hotel development opportunities.

Mr Wilson was to have replaced Ed Greenleish, who oversaw the group's flotation in April 1996.

In the wake of these problems, Millennium named John O'Shea as managing director in July, claiming that he had been the best candidate all along and that Mr Wilson had been just one of a number of people considered for the post. However, it would now appear that Mr O'Shea, who was previously with CDL Hotels International, the Singapore company that owns 55

per cent of Millennium, was merely an interim appointment pending the resolution of the situation.

Mr Wilson is believed to have tied up the details of his move when Kwek Leng Beng, the group's Singaporean chairman, was in London for the December board meeting.

Analysts believe an announcement will be made ahead of Millennium's annual results in a couple of months' time, although the company dismissed the story as "pure speculation".

Mr Wilson, whose 25 years at Hilton have earned him a reputation as one of the hard men of the hotel industry, is also thought to have been on the initial list of candidates drawn up by Russell Reynolds, the firm of headhunters, to replace Robert Peel as chief executive of Thistle Hotels.

Interestingly, Mr Kwek also has a small indirect shareholding in Thistle, and there were suggestions last year that he was looking at ways of putting Thistle and Millennium & Copthorne together. He is thought to have decided against any sort of merger.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

To Your Good Health! Drinker's Guide only £7.99 inc p&p

By DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Dr Thomas Stuttaford is well known as *The Times* medical columnist, with more than a million readers turning to him daily for advice on the latest medical matters. In this book he sets out a balanced view on drinking and health. The key message is that, taken in moderation, alcohol is good for you. Taken to excess it can be disastrous.

Dr Stuttaford proceeds through history to the latest research and draws on many case studies. What emerges is fascinating. Alcohol, he argues, helps to prevent strokes, lessens the likelihood of late-onset diabetes, acts as an anti-oxidant and improves the sperm count. It even has a beneficial effect on the intellect, especially amongst the elderly.



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HSBC secures bargain stake in Mexican bank

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HSBC has secured a \$126 million (£75 million) discount on a near 20 per cent stake in Grupo Serfin, Mexico's third-largest retail bank.

When the deal was first announced in March, HSBC agreed to pay \$300 million for 19.9 per cent holding. Yesterday, it secured the purchase for just \$174 million in Brady bonds.

The seller, the Mexican Government, is understood to have lopped more than 40 per cent off the original asking price after it was forced to offer financial assistance to Banca

Surfin, the group's principal subsidiary.

The financial crisis in South-East Asia is believed to have undermined the asset base of many Latin American banks. Fluctuations in the Mexican currency and other economic woes also served to persuade the Government to drop the initial price.

The deal, which has been approved by the regulatory authorities, marks the latest phase of HSBC's expansion into Latin America. The group, owner of Midland Bank, has made a string of

acquisitions in the region since the beginning of the year.

To date, HSBC has bought 10 per cent of Banco Sur in Peru, rescued Banco Barrerius in Brazil, taken control of Roberts Group in Argentina and increased its stake in Banco Santiago of Chile.

Shares in HSBC, the UK's largest company until turmoil in South-East Asia hit its stock, rallied on news of the Serfin deal, closing the day up 26p at £15.66. At their peak during the summer, HSBC shares were trading at close to £22.

HSBC has secured a bargain stake in Mexican bank

BP buys German plastics company

By CHRIS AYRES

BRITISH PETROLEUM, the oil group, has become Europe's second-largest polystyrene producer after paying more than £120 million for a German plastics company.

The company, which employs nearly 500 people, is a division of Hul's, part of the Veba group. It produces plastics used in the production of compact discs, building insulation and packaging.

The deal is the largest made by BP Chemicals, the BP subsidiary, for 15 years and includes the purchase of two sites, one near Dortmund, western Germany, and the

other in Trelleborg, southern Sweden. BP already has similar plants in France and Wales.

Bryan Sanderson, chief executive of BP Chemicals, said: "The BP Chemicals and Hul's businesses have complementary technologies and by joining them together we will create a strong portfolio of products for the styrene polymers market."

Erhard Meyer-Galow, chairman of Hul's, added: "We have been searching for a strong partner for a long time and with BP we have found the ideal match."

Cadbury's drive to repel Mars attack

By FRASER NELSON

Chocolate wars are set to erupt next year as Cadbury's launches a £4 million marketing campaign to defend its Creme Eggs against new lines from Mars, its arch rival.

Cadbury, which sells one of every three chocolates in the UK, plans to mount its stiffest defence of its £200 million Easter egg market after losing substantial share to Mars at Christmas.

The Creme Egg campaign begins tomorrow with the launch of a £2.5 million advertising campaign. A taskforce of 300 Cadbury sales executives will be deployed to 50,000 sweet shops across the UK, offering a flashing light

stall for the Creme Eggs — designed to deflect attention from alternative brands.

The moves came as Mars claimed to have given Cadbury a solid beating in the variety box "twist-wrap" market through its Celebrations range. Mars says sweet shops are reporting that Celebrations claimed 50 per cent of the twist-wrap market over Christmas, forcing Cadbury's Roses into second place in several cities.

Mars expects that its Celebrations will do similar damage to Cadbury's share of the Easter egg market, and said that it is not planning to spend anywhere near £4 million on its Galaxy truffle eggs or Milky Way mini-eggs.

Cadbury's denied that it was on the run

from Mars, and said it did not rate the Celebrations as a competitor for its Creme Eggs. Cadbury said: "Boxes of sweets are the sort of thing you share with your friends when you have a video around — Creme Eggs are a treat for yourself that no one else can share."

"At the end of the day, we're the only ones who do chocolate egg with a video. Lots of other people have tried to imitate it and no one's come anywhere near in 75 years, so I think we're quite safe for a few years more yet."

The company expects to produce 300 million Creme Eggs this year to sell in the 14-week run-up to Easter Sunday. The festive falls on April 12 this year, providing an extra 15 shopping days.



CHANGING TIMES

STOCK MARKET

Stock Market Writer
of the Year

Wall Street's strong start perks up London shares

ANOTHER positive start to trading on Wall Street enabled the London stock market to extend this week's gains, just when it was showing signs of running out of steam.

Positive performances overnight in the Far East set the scene for early trading in the City, though the extended Christmas break chosen by many investors kept trading levels to a minimum.

At one stage the FTSE 100 index was 32.4 higher, but showed signs of flagging before the Dow Jones industrial average chipped in with an 82-point rise. It closed 19.9 higher at 5,132, with fewer than 400 million shares trading hands.

The heaviest turnover of the day was seen in British Steel, which managed to struggle off its low for the year with a rise of 1p to 129.1p as 12.7 million shares were traded. There was also demand for BTR, another bombed-out stock in the top 100, which finished 1p firmer at 184p as 12.43 million shares were traded.

Elsewhere among the leaders Lusaco bounded back with a rise of 9p to 276p after coming under selling pressure on Monday.

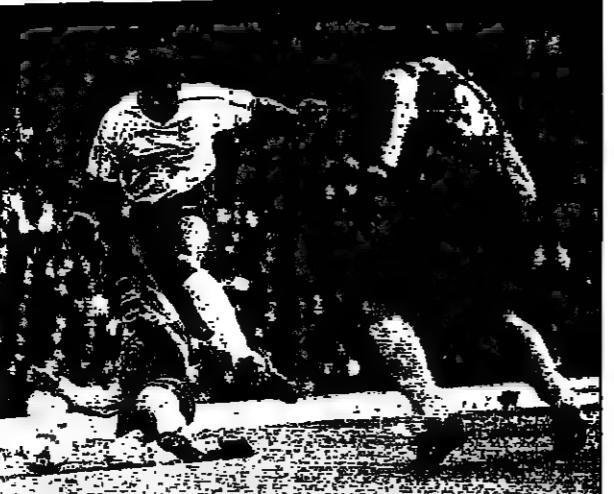
A combination of stock shortages and selective support resulted in double-digit gains among other blue chips, including Reckitt & Colman, 27p to 96p, Reuters, 18p to 66p, Royal Sun Alliance, 15p to 61p, EMI, 12p to 50p, Great Universal Stores, 17p to 76p, and National Power, 12.5p to 90p.

Newly merged Diageo slipped 3p to 559p as brokers pondered the prospect of further expansion by the McDonald's burger chain in this country, which would generate fresh competition for its own Burger King chain.

Cordant rose 7p to 101.5p as it looked to the expected benefits arising from this month's merger of Satschi & Satschi, up 1p to 101.5p.

Non-voting shares in Schroders, one of the few remaining independent merchant banks, touched 118 before settling 10p dearer at 117.51 after one investor bid £18 for 500 shares in a very thin market.

An upward movement in the London share price is a rare event these days, but it managed one yesterday with a rise of 134.5p to almost a million shares changed hands. Some brokers say the shares are being selected as a



Spurs, without injured Les Ferdinand, fell 1p

possible recovery play in 1998, after seeing them drop from a peak of 42p since flotation this year. Earlier this month, the telecoms group lost its role as a constituent of the top 250 companies.

Speculative buying pushed Envirochem 4.5p higher at 13p. On Monday the group confirmed it had been in bid talks, which had now broken down, for the past six months.

The healthcare specialist has refused to rule out the possibility of future bids. Logica continued to be chased higher with a leap of 40p to 113.0p. Nomura, the Japanese securities house, has set a target price of 115p, while rival SBC Warburg Dillon Read rates the shares a 'buy' up to 120p. Renewed interest had been generated by the formation of a new sector

within the FTSE All Share for information and technology companies.

There was selective support for other companies which are expected to be included in the new sector, including CMG, 37.5p to 115.25p, Diagonal, 12.5p to 69.25p, FI Group, 17.5p to 93.25p, MSB International, 30p to 63.75p, Micro Focus, 22.5p to 23.625p, Royalblue, 31p to 346.75p, and Sherwood International, 25p to 512.5p.

Bond international Software achieved the distinction of becoming the last company to float on the stock market in 1997. Shares in the computer software group started trading yesterday after a placing on AIM at 65p. The price opened at 77.5p and closed at its best of the day up 24p at 89.5p.

Uncertainty about the future of Christian Gross, its new manager, and the latest injury to striker Les Ferdinand left Tottenham Hotspur 1p down at a new low of 75.5p. Now deputy Fritz Schmid has been denied a work permit to join the side, which was a precondition of Gross's appointment. Gross has only been in the job five weeks and Spurs continue to languish second from bottom in the table.

La Senza fell 2p to 20p with brokers fearing that the pre-Christmas rush had fallen short of expectations.

□ GILT-EDGED: Bond prices in London fell by more than 1p on revived fears of a rise in US interest rates. It followed publication of the latest US consumer confidence index, which rose to its highest level for almost 30 years. T-bonds fell sharply, along with German bunds, and dragged gilts down in their wake.

In the futures pit the March series of the long gilt closed 13.5p lower at 121.15p in thin trading, with just 23,000 contracts completed.

The Bank of England has confirmed plans to hold two gilt auctions between January and March. The first auction on January 28 will be of conventional long stock maturing in December 2000, while a tranche of Treasury 7.25 per cent 2007 will be issued on March 25.

□ NEW YORK: US blue chips eased off their high in last morning trading as the market paused after a day and a half of strong gains. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was ahead by 77.23 at 7,869.64.

IT DOES not look like being a prosperous new year for Britain's retailers judging by recent comments.

On Monday Littlewoods moaned that trading during the run-up to Christmas had fallen below expectations. This upset the likes of Marks & Spencer yesterday which ended the session 13p lower at 597p, with Kingfisher also 10p off at 833p and Argos 5.5p cheaper at 551p.

However, some of the bigger-ticket stores, which have already benefited from the building society windfalls, appear to be ending the year on a high note.

Carpet suppliers, in particular, are reckoned to be enjoying strong demand which was reflected in their shares. Allied Carpets put on 10p at 175.5p, while MFI Furniture finished 7p better at 119p. Carpetright also sported a gain of 12p at 452p as Sir Harry Djanogly, a director, added to his holding with the purchase of 37,000 shares at 42.5p.

Other big-ticket item retailers to go before included Essex Furniture, 5.5p to 67.5p, and DFS Furniture, 2p to 516p.

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If a mere state visit by the leaders of France was enough to 'wheel out all available symbols of Cool Britannia' at Canary Wharf in November (flowers by Paula Pryke, Islington's favourite florist, sofas by Sir Terence Conran), it can scarcely be imagined what kind of whiz-bang cultural iconography will be on display during Britain's six-month presidency of the European Union beginning tomorrow.

Cynics would argue that putting on a show, taking the opportunity to dollop out a bit more of new Labour's rebranding of Britain, is the best way to elide the truth that Britain has no role to play in this six-month slice of the Union's history. This is after all, the crucial few months when the members of the single currency are chosen and bilateral exchange rates set, and Britain, of course, has ruled out joining the euro during this Parliament. The UK presidency begins

against a backdrop of considerable mutual irritation on the subject of the single currency, centring on the skirmish about whether Britain will be invited to meetings of the Euro-X committee of euro 'ins'. Britain claims victory, having established the principle that Ecofin, the forum for all EU finance ministers, in or out of the euro, will be the key decision-making body and that Euro-X will discuss matters only of strict relevance to members of the single currency.

That may be the public compromise but the truth is that the 11 countries, which Karel van Miert, EU Competition Commissioner, yesterday forecast would join the euro in the first wave, will discuss what they damned well like in

their own committee and a voluntary 'out' like Britain can do little more than stamp its feet.

The main decisions on the single currency have already been made in deals done in Paris and Rome and Britain would be well advised to forget the single currency during its presidency and force the agenda on other matters of strategic importance. It would be a great shame either if Labour pique over Euro-X or its penchant for high-tech image-making and high-flown rhetoric (Robin Cook's summing up of his aspirations for the presidency was "Giving Europe back to the people") were to divert it from trying, at least, to push through a useful programme of reform of the Union. There are serious issues which

with careful bushwhacking and a dash of British diplomatic expertise (still admired in other European capitals despite beef wars and Euro-X), could see progress over the next six months.

Enlargement of the EU is one such. So too, at the risk of leaving British farmers even more ap-

pealing than they are already, is reform of the common agricultural policy, necessary if new members are to be absorbed. These issues were always highlighted by successive Conservative governments in a doomed attempt to distract its European partners from their obsession with the single currency. Now that the euro is virtually certain to happen, on time and with broad membership, these programmes assume actual and pressing importance.

Realistically, none of this is likely to make much headway until the euro is up and running in 1999, when Germany assumes the presidency, but Britain should still try to give the agenda momentum (a favorite new Labour buzzword). One way in which it

could make a real virtue of its unique diplomatic position between America and Europe is, as the Federal Trust has suggested, to strengthen co-ordination between the enlargement strategies both of the EU and Nato.

That said, the major theme of the next six months will be jobs, jobs, jobs. Britain will seek to proselytise its own work on New Deals for the unemployed. Welfare to Work and the need for flexible labour markets. After the row over lone mother and invalidity benefits, it may not get a polite hearing from the French, determined to fight for social featherbedding whatever the cost, but the British (and American) model is getting stronger by the day.

If the Asian tiger economies

were regarded as a competitive threat before, it is a considerably more frightening one now that the region has been forced into dramatic devaluations of their currencies.

There is no doubt that once their tottering banking systems are nursed back to stability, Asia will export itself out of trouble very quickly. Given that many of the region's economies are going to be suffering a significant demand shock, the tigers have no choice but to try to flood Europe and America, among others, with their goods. In this context, French resistance to deregulating its labour market borders on madness.

Talking about flexibility will not be enough. If Britain achieves one thing during its presidency, it would be to insist on the strict application of the principle of subsidiarity in labour market and social legislation.

Keep the momentum, not the rhetoric



America looks to 'John Wayne' to halt Microsoft's stampede

Bill Gates had demigod status but became a 'wanted man'. Oliver August finds out why

Losing \$4 billion would ruin anyone's end-of-year celebrations. Bill Gates is currently nursing the wounds inflicted on his personal fortune. Stock market gyrations took a heavy toll of America's richest man. But he will remember 1997 as his *annus horribilis* for more than financial reasons.

Until this year, he was the darling of America's fastest-growing industry, the demigod of the computer world, the corporate citizen number one who would ensure America's future global dominance. At the height of his popularity, the launch of *Windows 95* software live on CNN was treated like the official announcement of the Eleventh Commandment.

This summer the Microsoft chairman visited Britain and Russia and was received with the ceremonial pomp usually reserved for heads of state. Parish councils everywhere wanted him to open plants in their backyard and universities begged him to toss them a slice of high-tech research. Schoolchildren lifted their fingers from keyboards to wave at the modern-day alchemist. Royalty was wheeled out to convey the respect and esteem the Old World held him in. All but the sacrificial slaughter of a rival computer producer on the airport tarmac was included in the ceremonies.

What a change it must have made for Gates. For at home, he has become a bogeyman. The only hands waving at him are clenched in angry fists. Fan mail has been replaced by court orders. His own Microsoft programmes are being turned on him by furtive e-mailers who bombard him with electronic jibes and complaints. Seeking refuge, he moved into a secluded 100-room mansion in the remote woods of Washington state shielded by the Rocky Mountains. The Gates compound is already being dubbed Xanadu; after the mad mogul in Orson Welles's film *Citizen Kane*.

The vilification of the Microsoft chairman started in relative harmlessness as a string of jokes forwarded and multiplied on the Internet. He was an obvious target as the key personality in the industry. One joke that reached *The Times* e-mail envisions Gates, Bill Clinton and Al Gore perishing in an aeroplane crash. Arriving in heaven, they are asked by God what they believe in. Gore says he believes that the combustion engine is evil and the environment needs saving. God nods in approval and invites him to be seated on his left. Clinton

says he believes in the good in man and the power of democracy. God invites him to sit on his right and then turns to Gates. "And what do you believe?" Gates replies: "I believe you are in my chair."

The Gates jokes are now swamping Internet sites once devoted to serious and informed debate about problems with Microsoft programmes. Gallows humour remains as the last line of defence. Old jokes are recycled with new punchlines. "How many Microsoft engineers does it take to change a lightbulb? None. They just declare that darkness will be the new universal standard."

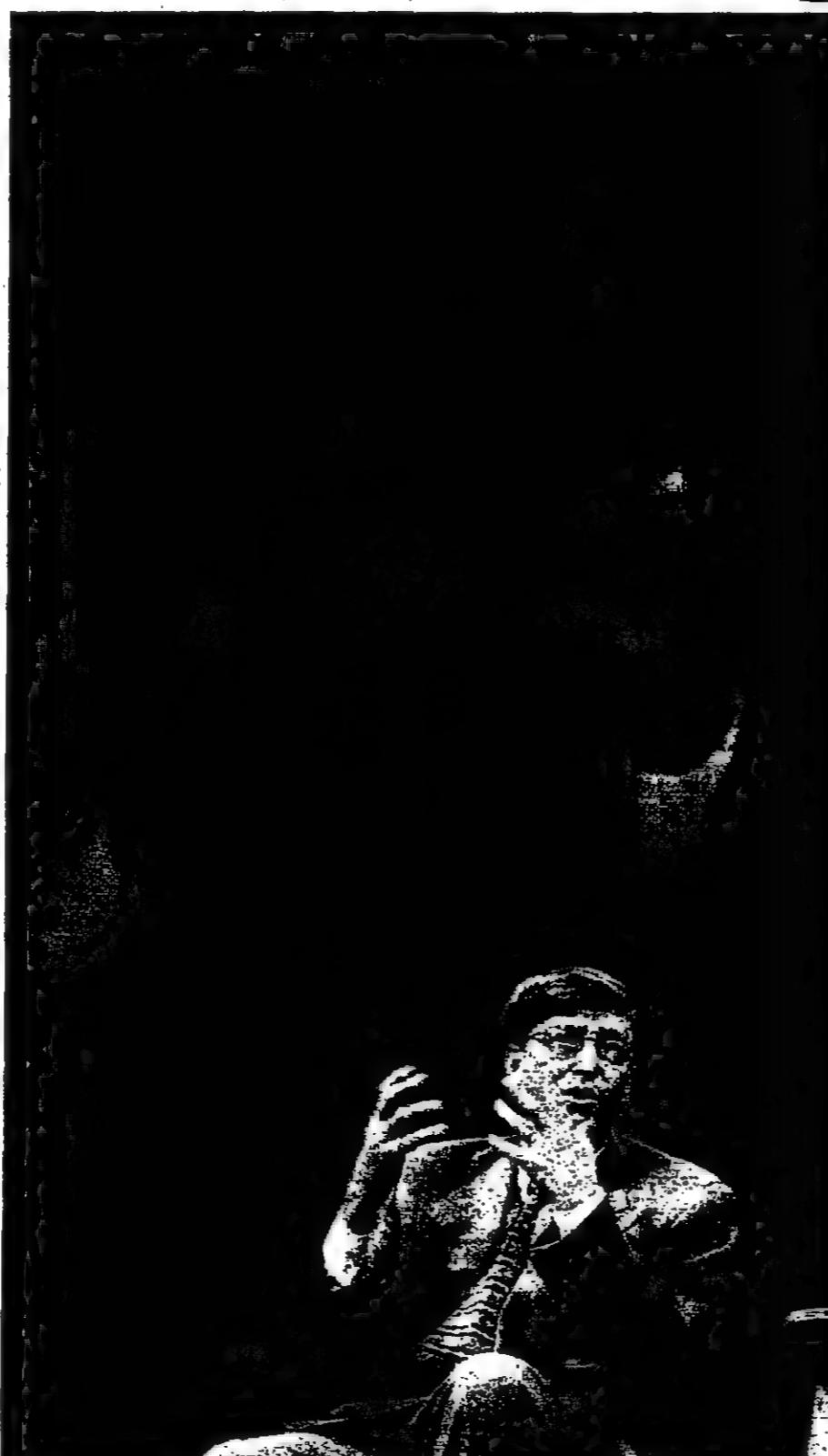
The charge behind the jokes is a serious one. Americans and their Government have become alarmed over the past 12 months about Microsoft's market dominance. Surveys regularly find that Gates is believed to be more powerful than Clinton. The paranoia that Gates "wants to take over the world" is based on the fact that he has not only a monopoly but a stranglehold on personal computers.

One is more likely to find a Microsoft product in any given American home or office than a product made by Coca-Cola, Disney or Kodak. Gabriel Goldberg, of the Capital PC Users Group, said: "I am not a Microsoft basher. I run *Windows 95*. But I really like competition. Suppose you could only buy food from McDonald's?"

In November Gates was treated to a virtual crucifixion at a Microsoft-bashing conference organised by Ralph Nader, the consumer champion. Now Bob Dole, last year's Republican presidential candidate, has jumped on the bandwagon. Once again he is ranting a tin can. This time he is asking for money to fund an anti-Microsoft campaign.

He wrote in a letter to other computer companies: "In the coming months, we will need to educate the public, the Administration and Congress about a laissez faire attitude toward Microsoft. I am personally convinced that if nothing is done now, it will be increasingly difficult to have fair competition in the years ahead. That is why we need companies like yours to help to finance and support our efforts."

The animosity toward Microsoft and Gates has been fuelled by what is seen as the company's arrogance and incompetence. Niels Bryan-Low, the American-born managing director of Proteus, a London Internet company, said: "It is not just that Microsoft is all-powerful and people fear it could one day limit our free-



Concern has grown about the dominance of the Microsoft empire run by Bill Gates

dom to communicate. There is also the complaint that Microsoft products don't work. It has a monopoly so it gets away with murder. Microsoft servers crash all the time. Instead of fixing its existing products, it continuously churns out new ones with new problems. The only reason the company gets away with it is that there is no competition. That's why people hate them so much."

The vilification of Microsoft and Gates reached a new climax with the current anti-trust suit waged by the Justice Department. Joel Klein, the government lawyer in charge,

won a rare victory earlier this month, when a judge compelled the company to divorce its *Windows 95* operating system from its Internet software. The Justice Department is alleging that Microsoft is forcing computer manufacturers to use its Internet software if they want to load up the operating system. The reason for this, according to Mr Klein, is that the company wants to win the same monopoly position on the Internet that it has in the operating system market. Once achieved, Gates could control access to the Internet.

Mr Klein is seeking a \$1 million (£600,000) a day fine until Microsoft complies with the ruling. The move is reminiscent of UN sanctions against rogue nations such as Iraq. Gates makes an unlikely ensat Saddam, but he is on the way to trapping a business version of "America's most wanted man" list.

Not since the days of J. P. Morgan and John D. Rockefeller has a businessman — who is not a fraudster — faced so much animosity in America. Like Morgan and Rockefeller, Gates accumulated his fortune by dominating the fastest-growing sector of the economy — steel and railways a hun-

drad years ago, computers today. But that's where the similarities end.

While Morgan and Rockefeller were arrogant men who preferred the company of well-educated Englishmen to that of their workers and fellow steel barons, Gates embraces a touchy-feely corporate culture. To his short-sleeved, bearded employees on the company campus on the Pacific coast he is simply Bill, an approachable nerd who has turned many of them into stock option millionaires.

Microsoft itself explains the public animosity as greed and jealousy. Brad Chase, a vice-president, said: "There is this weird thing in America about the way we deal with successful companies."

He misses the point. Americans don't begrudge Gates his \$32 billion fortune nor did they display *schadenfreude* when it plunged from \$39 billion.

They believe he's worth all those billions and more. It's his just desert for being wildly successful. Wall Street values Microsoft on a par with the whole US car sector.

Why Gates has become a bogeyman in a country that cherishes wealth and admires success can only be understood in the context of America's obsession with modern technology. Britons still think of computers as a tool. Partly out of contempt for soulless machines, partly out of Luddite fear, computers have not taken centre stage in our public consciousness.

But in America "cyberspace" has filled the spiritual void created when the Wild West was conquered and irrigated. Cyberspace is the new frontier. A land of wide open plains where every American can stake his or her claim. Cyberspace gives them the chance to follow the example of their forefathers, to trek into uncharted territory, taking destiny into their own hands. And today they can do so from their living room without having to massacre Red Indians.

The computer sector is a land of grand opportunities and untold wealth — as Gates demonstrated. He was the grandfather of the new gold rush. But America turned against him when he reached a position from which he could control the progress of all other gold diggers. The threat that he could control access to the Internet was the final straw.

Americans fear he could curtail their new trek west by erecting barriers. Whether any one person or company could shake their American Dream is questionable. But many Americans agree with Roberta Katz, a vice-president of Netscape, a Microsoft competitor, who said: "Microsoft wants to create a giant toll booth for the Internet." In Mr Klein, America has found its new John Wayne.

solar energy developments, while for cars, lorries, trains and aircraft there is greater use of ethanol based fuel and electric-powered vehicles.

Patchwork: In this scenario, the political process takes a greater role in energy decisions. Vattenfall, using evidence already emerging within Scandinavia, has noted that some people are willing to pay a premium price for electricity if they know it is generated locally and have some say in how it is generated. This follows concern over the willingness or ability of national governments to force generators to develop in the next century?

Few organisations can predict with any accuracy how the market will pan out in the next millennium. However, researchers at Vattenfall, Sweden's largest energy group, have spotted a series of trends developing in how people buy their fuel and electricity or power their motor vehicles. The group has given *The Times* access to this work which maps out four scenarios for how the market will develop in the next century. According to Eva Ström, of Vattenfall, these scenarios are not mutually exclusive. Different countries may go down different paths, and more than one scenario may take place within a country.

Money rules: The world economy becomes increasingly global, distributing energy becomes easier through greater use of pipelines and powerlines and there is limited regulation by international and national governments. Fossil fuels are initially cheap, encouraging less well-off countries to invest in projects that are not environmentally friendly. Despite pressure from leading economies at forums like the Kyoto summit, there is little economic incentive for poorer countries to deal with their environmental problems. However, the heavy usage of fossil fuels increases their scarcity and so their price, penalising the poorer countries, which end up with large bills both for cleaning up their environments and for the fossil fuels that they have chosen to burn.

Sunstroke: The greenhouse effect is seen as a critical survival problem requiring political co-operation on a global scale. The US and China concede that the European attitude to carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions is correct. In addition to strict controls of CO₂ emissions there is heavy investment in developing CO₂-free and sustainable resource alternatives (for example, using fast-growing forests to turn into woodchip for fuel), not only for generating energy, but also for transport. In particular this provides a boost to hydroelectric power — currently considered too expensive by many electricity companies — and

Water — or small hydroelectric plants generating power for a few thousand homes to be built for a relatively low capital outlay. However, in less developed countries regional solutions may be a reaction to attempts by national governments to cut CO₂ emissions and may end up creating more pollution in the quest for cheap locally generated power.

Splendid isolation: Market forces come more and more to the fore, with national governments largely giving up their regulatory role. Two groupings in society emerge — those who accept the increasing influence of multinational organisations with their reliance on traditional energy forms and those who essentially "drop out" of the process, going back to the land, using old-style arts and crafts and generating any electricity they use on a small scale, using, say, wind or solar power.

Vattenfall takes the view that, in all likelihood, there will be a combination of all four scenarios, but that the balance will lead to more pressure to protect the environment. Its researchers point out that if energy companies do not become aware of their environmental responsibilities, then their customers and regulators will force awareness upon them.

cal enough, except that it seems to disregard one or two important facts, that many frauds such as Barings and Sumitomo are more a case of individuals trying to dig themselves out of trouble and merely getting in deeper, or that others, such as Robert Maxwell, go on for some years without being discovered. But I pass it on to you anyway as something else to worry about.

MARTIN WALLER

Tiger feat

EXPECT to hear more of a once-familiar voice in the new year. Jonathan Custance Baker is gradually taking over the top roles at Exeter Investment Group, the money manager he joined as managing director in October. I am not suggesting Custance Baker is in any way a publicity hound, but he did once pose with a live tiger to help to launch James Cape's Far East Tiger Index Fund a few years back. This event has entered City mythology, and he is now widely believed to have put his head in the tiger's mouth, to the consternation that his publicity people have even offered me pictures of this non-existent event. "I'm not that mad," he says.

Custance Baker has spent the past three years labouring under some improbable long

job title at the Bank of Bermuda. He is taking over the chairmanship of EIG's unit trust arm and will eventually run the investment trust side as well, as Ian Henderson, EIG's chief executive and founder, bows out towards retirement.

I ask if leaving Bermuda is a wrench, even if it did reunite him with his family. "I've had three miserable years lying in the sun, trying to decide if it was the right weather for sailing or for golf. Someone had to do it."

AS WE journalists are no longer allowed to identify guilty parties, I am not allowed to name the investment bank involved, but a correction reached my desk



yesterday to one of those analysts' recommendations for 1998. The document had been reprinted because of errors, so use this version and discard the previous one, it says. And just which bits were wrong? A quick comparison with the old copy makes it

clear. Yes, those tricky "buy" and "hold" bits.

Pass it on

I AM sorry to have to break the news to those people who have participated in good faith, but there is another of those chain letters going around the City purporting to benefit Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. I have just received my second approach. Recipients are asked to help to raise more than £1.5 million for the hospital, which has recently had to close four wards to make ends meet. They are asked to contribute just £2 to the hospital but forward copies of the letter to ten further individuals.

These things are started honestly and with the best of motives. The trouble is, the hospital does not approve, and wants them stopped. This is not a form of fundraising it en-



"Forget the Mayor of London — I just want to work in the City"

dorses, and some facts in the letter are incorrect. If you wish to make a donation, the hospital is very grateful, but members of the public are advised not to pass the letter on. There is a proper need for telling you, and in the season of goodwill, too.

Scam claim

A MILLENNIAL forecast from one City fraudbuster, which warns of a new wave of frauds coming to light in 1999. It seems frauds, like sunspots, El Niño and hemlines on skirts, arrive in easily predictable cycles, of four years in this case. Simon Bevan, of the Arthur Andersen Fraud Services Unit, claims that BCCI, Maxwell, Wallace Smith Trust and Roger Levitt all emerged in 1991. In 1995 there

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Tony Blair will fight for the environment during his presidency of the European Union, which starts tomorrow

How technology is helping to clean up the streets of Britain

When air pollution reached worrying levels in Paris, half the cars were ordered off the road and fares were abolished on public transport. But when the same levels of nitrogen dioxide were detected in London, no action was taken. So are we doing enough to combat the problem?

Tony Blair begins his Presidency of the European Union tomorrow with the promise to concentrate on fighting crime, creating jobs — and cleaning up the environment. He has already pledged to cut emissions of carbon dioxide by 20 per cent within 20 years. More than a fifth of the gas produced in the UK comes from motor vehicles.

The British Government is already trying to fight the urban menace of air pollution. It runs an hourly information service about smog levels — available to the public on Ceefax, radio, newspapers and the Internet — to deter motorists and help those with asthma and lung or heart diseases to decide when to stay in.

The system has now been updated so that it measures levels of carbon monoxide and the dangerous airborne particles called particulates, as well as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and ozone.

There are various national programmes to monitor air quality in the UK, but with legislation expected soon, local authorities are increasingly being expected to play their part in curbing pollution and

New measures to combat pollution could mean cars being kept out of city centres, says Gavin Hadland

its main cause — traffic on the road. Computer monitoring technology is the weapon they are using to fight it.

To fit in with the Government's plans, roadside air-quality monitors could be linked to computer systems across Britain that change traffic lights, levy charges on motorists or block roads.

Air pollution can be measured in many ways, using equipment as simple as a plastic tube with absorbent material at one end, or sophisticated electronic analysers that take measurements every second.

Hampshire County Council not only monitors pollution but also predicts it, using technology designed to track radioactive fallout from a Chernobyl-style disaster. The Met Office's Nuclear Accident Response Model will be developed to locate sources of pollution entering the county and to predict where it is second.

Tony Claburn, the council's head of transportation planning, says: "Being able to predict pollution levels means you can advise people to stay at home or travel by bus. During the Cold War the Met Office had developed a computer to deal with nuclear incidents. We felt we could make good use of this machine.

ozone. Carbon monoxide is measured with an infra-red analyser, working on the principle that the gas absorbs infra-red at specific wavelengths.

In its drive to cut air pollution, the council has also carried out a large trial of remote emission sensing from the roadside. Passing vehicles have been checked, their exhaust emissions recorded and number plates identified. If the scheme were implemented, drivers of polluting vehicles could be sent advice on reducing emissions.

In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire a new system has been developed to link pollution with traffic flow. A project known as Emma (Environmental Monitoring in Metropolitan Areas), partly funded by the Government, will lead to traffic management strategies to reduce emissions and improve the environment.

A network of air quality sensors, developed with Siemens, has been installed on main roads to enable researchers to predict congestion or pollution problems up to 48 hours in advance.

In Leicester such predictions have been used to change the timing of traffic lights so that fewer cars are allowed into problem areas, or 'hotspots' when a build-up of pollution is detected there. This scheme, the Effect project, a European-funded initiative which uses Swedish software to monitor air quality, is also being tested in Maldon, Kent.

Margaret Bell of the Institute for Transport Studies at Leeds University, is overseeing Emma. "When we forecast high levels of pollution we will try to persuade the public to car-share or to delay short trips," she says. "If they respond we can measure any significant drop in vehicle levels and corresponding pollution levels. We can then go back to the public and tell them they've done a good job.

If people stopped making short trips by car we could reduce pollution levels. In fact if everyone kept their car engines and exhausts in good condition, we could reduce pollution by 50 per cent."

Technology for deterring motorists such as road pricing and car metering systems has been shown to work, but would it be possible to imple-

ment such schemes? Roger King of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has said: "The problem with public transport is that it is always the other guy who should leave his car at home."

Dr Bell adds: "We must reduce the number of cars on the road — that is accepted," she says. "But human nature is such that it will be difficult. It will be a brave government that introduces this kind of measure. Members of the public are very married to their cars. But if they don't take advice on pollution it may be necessary."

Emma could be linked to another system being tested in Leicester, where cars are electronically tagged and drivers charged a fee when they enter the city centre. Such a plan would fit in with the Government's plans. "The experiment will be to see how much motorists would have to be charged before they use park and ride," says Dr Bell. "So far, research has shown that people are willing to pay a lot to avoid giving up their cars."

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1997: the Interface end-of-term report

It's been a turbulent year for the technology industry. Hype, misinformation and general uncertainty as to pricing and product standards have all added to the mix, with companies from every side of the marketplace claiming to be shakers and movers in 1997.

Interface takes a retrospective look at the past 12 months, and offers an end-of-year report on the real winners and losers.

INDUSTRY NAMES

Recommended: Hewlett-Packard continues to compete aggressively and professionally in a variety of technology markets. The well-built and attractively featured equipment range has propelled the company from being an also-ran to the position of a \$43 billion giant second only to IBM in the computer rankings.

Disappointing: Apple seems to excel at snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Even the most loyal of their supporters must be wondering where it will all end as the company prevaricates over the choice of a permanent chief executive and continues to lose top executive talent to its competitors.

Watch out for: RealNetworks, the creators of software for transmitting multimedia over the Internet, has just enjoyed a successful share flotation in the US and all the signs are that this innovative Seattle-based company could be going places. Clever net companies continue to hold the confidence of Wall Street even in these troubled times, and Real has good products, as well as an added edge in the form of Microsoft as a shareholder.

HARDWARE

Recommended: Pentium II architecture. It may not offer a quantum leap in performance terms right now, but the new Intel processor and motherboard architecture promises serious speed and convenience benefits over the next couple of years.

Disappointing: MMX and CE handheld computers. A victim of its own hype, MMX is the damp squib that never really took off. The technology was sold as an important milestone in multimedia computing, but in reality has had far less impact on the PC than 3-D graphics cards. Windows CE computers also failed to set the world alight this year. Heralded as the answer to portable computing dreams, the systems turned out to be battery hogs with mediocre performance and few outstanding features.

Watch out for: The low price of RAM (and more efficient microprocessors) continues to drive the inventive development of smaller, more powerful computer products. Watch for the mini-notebook market and personal organiser market to boom as products from Japan start to filter out on to the international scene.

SOFTWARE

Recommended: Windows NT has come of age this year. The surprise has been just



Now pay attention, class: what ever world Mr Chips have made of the 1997 generation of super-chip computers?

After a fast-moving year, Nigel Powell reviews the tops and flops in the IT industry from software to mobile phones, plus the technologies destined to make an impact in the coming months

how fast and widespread the adoption of the Microsoft operating environment has been.

Not only is it sweeping the board in large companies around the world, but it is gaining important wins in industry sectors such as broadcast and graphic design which have traditionally been the stronghold of companies such as Apple, SGI and Sun.

Disappointing: The problem with overhyping a product or technology is that eventually you have to deliver on the promises, and in this respect Java has been a disappointment this year.

Based by excruciatingly slow performance across the Internet, Corel's very public withdrawal from Java development and the exploding of the 'write once, run anywhere' myth, Java is now desperately seeking a proper home in the scheme of things.

Watch out for: Multimedia entertainment software. PC games have already

eclipsed the dedicated console systems in terms of graphical quality and entertainment value. Watch for this trend to continue as chips get more powerful and technologies such as DVD start to arrive on the market.

PERIPHERALS

Recommended: Colour inkjet printing. Colour printing at the desktop is now fast, high-quality and at the right price point. Products such as the landmark Letmark 7200 have pushed the market to new levels of value and this trend is set to continue at a furious pace in the new year as the competition heats up.

Disappointing: 56K modems have been hamstrung by continued wrangles over an official standard, and most purchasers have adopted a wait-and-see stance. This situation should change next year once the new standard is ratified by the International Telecommunications Union.

Watch out for: Removable storage and digital cameras look set to be the hot technologies of 1998. Digital cameras continue to astonish with their improved performance and plummeting prices, and removable hard disk products from companies such as Iomega and SyQuest also promise excellent value for money.

ROAD WARRIORS

Recommended: Mobile phones are becoming cheaper, more powerful and more flexible. Innovative products such as the GC25 PCMCIA/PC Card phone from Ericsson (plug it into the laptop and the computer becomes the phone) should ensure the progress of cellular convenience into 1998 and beyond.

Disappointing: GSM data speeds. The hoped-for benefits of universally fast speeds for wireless data transmissions have failed to materialise. The cellular authorities really need to get their act together now to meet the demand from

business for transactions on the move. **Watch out for:** Telecoms pricing and choice. The boom in telecommunications can only be a blessing for businesses on a budget. Mobile phones now compete directly with landline services and the continuing price reductions should benefit every business that relies on the telephone as a lifeline.

INTERNET

Recommended: Internet Explorer 4. Not a mobile product by any means, but a very able one. Microsoft has taken advantage of Netscape's focus on the corporate marketplace to deliver a cleverly featured and very usable Web browser.

Disappointing: E-commerce has simply not caught the public's imagination yet. Few doubt that it will eventually shine, but until then the prime movers will have to overcome people's instinctive mistrust of Internet security. **Watch for:** Set-top boxes. 1998 could make

or break the set-top box. Will it be a digital television, Web-enabled beast, or a dedicated stand-alone Internet unit à la Microsoft's WebTV? Only time, and the canny buying public, will tell.

SMALL/HOME OFFICE

Recommended: The Internet. Any small company which fails to recognise the potential of the World Wide Web to improve their business service is destined to regret it. It may not be obvious right now, but the Web is a slow but sure revolution in the making.

Disappointing: Technology support. The small business purchaser is still being treated with contempt by most technology vendors when it comes to technical assistance. User documentation (nowadays trendily re-named online help) generally remains pitiful, and pre- and post-sales support is patchy at best.

Watch out for: Improved mobile and home office facilities. New digital telephone links, cheaper video-conferencing systems from companies such as Intel and better fax/telephone services should all offer the small business more options for keeping in touch with customers and colleagues.

Beware: that 'secure' phone can be cloned

British researchers say they can now clone digital telephones — used by VIPs including the Royal Family because they were thought to be unbreakable — and that calls made on these phones are widely eavesdropped on by the security services.

A team at Cambridge University's Computer Labs (CUCL) believe they can now intercept what were thought to be indecipherable codes sent by telephones using the GSM (Global System for Mobile communications) system to clone a user's telephone and make calls at their expense.

GSM telephones became popular after a series of embarrassing disclosures when radio hams eavesdropped on private conversations involving the Prince of Wales, Mrs Camilla Parker-Bowles and the Princess of Wales and sold transcripts to national newspapers.

Because the system is supposed to use high-level encryption between the handset and base station, it was thought that such disclosures would be impossible. Another advantage of the system is that, unlike with analogue mobile phones, it should be impossible to intercept codes the handset uses to identify itself to the network and program them into another telephone, thereby allowing a criminal to make calls at the expense of the innocent user.

But now Ross Anderson of CUCL says he and a team of researchers have found there are glaring security holes in the GSM system which would let anyone clone a GSM

GSM codes could be intercepted

telephone. His discovery followed a challenge from MobilCom, a subsidiary of German company Telekom, which offered 100,000 DM (£33,800) to any telephone hacker who was able to communicate at the expense of the (national) number 0171-328 9966. The related SIM card was said to be safely stored in a lawyer's office. The cash would go to a "social institution" of the hacker's choice.

"This caught our attention," wrote Anderson in the online Risks Forum newsletter. "Cambridge University, being a registered charity, surely qualifies as a social institution, and 100,000 DM would buy us a triple-wavelength laser microscope workstation for chipcar breaking. So we had a look at GSM and found a way to hack it."

"We worked out what equipment we'd need and where we could borrow it, assembled the team, checked that the attack would work, and then started trying to find the right person in Deutsche Telekom to speak to.

"We needed to know the IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Identification) and get written confirmation of the challenge, otherwise the attack might have been interpreted as an offence under Britain's Wireless Telegraphy Act."

Anderson eventually received a fax from the German telephone company, saying

the offer had been withdrawn, but he still believes the "hack" is possible. "When a GSM phone is turned on, its identity (the IMSI) is relayed to the authentication centre of the company that issued it, and this centre sends back a set of five 'tripes', he says.

Each triple consists of a random challenge, a response that the handset must return to authenticate itself, and a key for encrypting subsequent traffic between the mobile and the base station. The station then relays the random challenge to the handset.

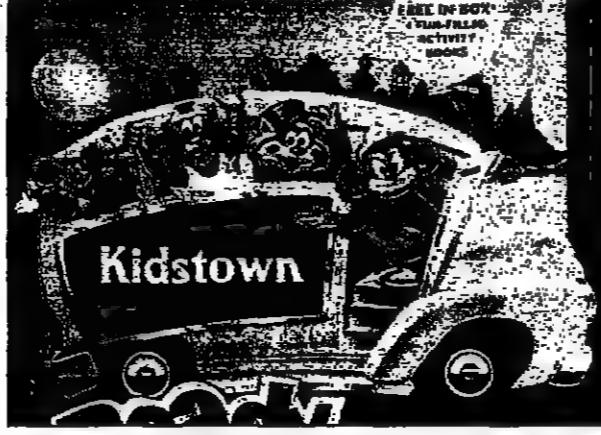
The SIM card which personalises the handset holds a secret code issued by the authentication centre, and it computes both the response and the content key from the random challenge using this secret code. The vulnerability we planned to exploit is that, though there is provision in the standard for encrypting the traffic between the base station and the authentication centre, in practice operators leave the transmissions in clear.

The official reason for doing so is simplicity, but Anderson claims it is so that the security services can listen in to what users believe are private calls. Anderson says the necessary equipment would cost £12,500 and could be assembled by a competent radio ham within months. "Essentially, you could charge calls to any GSM phone whose IMSI you know. IMSIs can be harvested by eavesdropping, both passive and active," he says. "IMSI-catchers are commercially available."

CHRIS WARD



Into the hi-tech age: Fisher-Price's Fun for Kids



The Magic Circus comes to town on the home computer

Baby toys in smooth move to multimedia

Do you remember your Action Ramps garage and down to the farm? Or how about the Farmyard with all those neat little plastic animals?

Now educational toymaker Fisher-Price, creator of the world's best-loved baby activity centre, has developed a new range of activities for pre-school children that make the home computer more important than ever.

Fisher-Price has made educational toys for the past 65 years. It is said that one in two children in the UK has played with one of its Baby Activity Centres. Now the company's Ready for Learning series of software takes over where the activity centre left off.

The company has managed to transfer its "feel-good factor" into software without losing any of the charm. The four current titles are aimed at children aged from 18 months to six years old, and feature a range of activities.

Each title has a progressively more advanced content which, starting with *Play Family*, deals with basic counting and shape-sorting sections and moves on through the *Kidstown*, *Toland*, and *Magic Circus* titles to cover simple arithmetic and even telling the time. The whole series has a strong musical content.

Some of Fisher-Price's success must be owing to its policy of innovation and change to suit the marketplace. It releases more than 4,500 new product ideas every year, but only ten to 15 make it into the

more than 2,400 different toy products.

Renate Damhuis, the company's educational software manager, says: "Our entry into the software market is a logical step forward."

"Multimedia titles are the ideal way to capture and maintain a child's attention during their early years, and get them ready to use computers when they start school."

For more information on Fisher-Price ring 0118 920 0100

RAY HATLEY

Best new software titles

Encyclopaedia Britannica CD 98 (Encyclopaedia Britannica, £125): The most comprehensive collection of information reviewed this year, with 72,000 articles on two CDs offering a huge range of fully searchable data suitable for eight-year-olds to academics. A slightly complex installation program is the only real drawback. (0800 282433)

DrugSense (New Media, £74.95): Today's primary school children are becoming increasingly aware of drugs. This multimedia resource, aimed at teachers and pupils aged between nine and 13, contains real life stories, computer games, peer group pressure tactics and aids to enable teachers to structure lessons that deal with the problem of drugs. Printable data sheets include common terminology and what to do in an emergency. (01491 413999)

Good 2 Be True (Sierra, £34.99): A compilation of six quality Sierra titles worth more than £70, including *Ultimate Soccer Manager*, *EarthSiege*, *Caesar*, *3D Ultra Pinball*, *Print Artist* and *NASCAR Racing*. It needs a minimum 486DX 2/66 computer running Windows 95 with 16 Mb of Ram. (0118 920 9111)

Ultimate Action Games (Ultimate Games, £19.99): Travel, racing, sports and action games for the home computer. (0800 282433)

Travel Zone (Ultimate Games, £19.99): Travel, racing, sports and action games for the home computer. (0800 282433)

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Equities extend gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997 High	Low	Company	Price 99	Chg +/-	Yld %	PE x
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						
210	197	Adnams	102	+ 1	4.2	104
211	197	Adnams (L)	102	+ 1	4.2	109
212	197	Amstel	102	+ 1	4.2	104
213	197	Amstel (L)	102	+ 1	4.2	104
214	197	Amstel (NL)	102	+ 1	4.2	104
215	197	Amstel (NL) (L)	102	+ 1	4.2	104
216	197	Amstel (NL) (L)	102	+ 1	4.2	104
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301	197	Amstel (NL) (L)	102	+ 1	4.2	104
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315	197	Amstel (NL) (L)	102	+ 1	4.2	104
316	197	Amstel (NL) (L)	102	+ 1	4.2	104
317	197	Amstel (NL) (L)	102	+ 1	4.2	104
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319	197	Amstel (NL) (L)	102	+ 1	4.2	104
320	197	Amstel (NL) (L)	102	+ 1	4.2	104
321	197	Amstel (NL) (L)	102	+ 1	4.2	104

TENNIS: NEW GENERATION LOOKS TO THE STARS

British game set to benefit from rivals

It has only taken 20 years of hard work, but tennis has finally become an overnight success. The sport has hardly made front-page news since 1977, when Virginia Wade won Wimbledon, but these days the story of the rise and rise of Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman has forced its way into the same spotlight as Glenn Hoddle's road to France and Manchester United's European dream.

The effect has been spectacular. Five years ago, few would have imagined that a British player would have won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award, never mind beaten another into second place, but there was Rusedski, clutching his trophy and sharing a joke with the runner-up, Henman. The award came as a direct result of Rusedski not winning the US Open: who knows what will happen should one of them actually win a grand slam title.

They are fine ambassadors for the sport. Both are young, clean-cut, happy to sign an autograph, and say the right few words at the right time. Those in the business of spreading the word and encouraging youngsters to take up the game could not ask for more. Up at the sharp end, where the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is trying to get more schoolchildren on court playing the game, the response has been unimpressive.



Rusedski and Henman celebrate their Davis Cup triumph in Kiev

Alix Ramsay examines the effect of the rise and rise of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski

These days everyone knows who the top two players are and wants to be like them.

The knock-on effect has pushed more people through the turnstiles at tournaments. When Rusedski returned from the US Open, his first match at the *Samsung Open* in Bournemouth was sold out; even the national championships in Telford — not known as one of the most riveting events on the calendar — had a healthy upturn in ticket sales over the last couple of years as Henman and Rusedski have battled for the honours.

At such events, their followers split neatly into two distinct groups, with the girls attracted to Henman and the boys admiring Rusedski because of his thundering service and nervous energy. To the young and the enthusiastic, Tim is cool and Greg is cool.

It is ironic that after years of trying to change the public perception of tennis, and move it away from the elist, middle-class, monocled image, the LTA now finds itself

with a role model who is exactly that. Henman comes from a well-to-do family of lawyers from Oxfordshire.

Rusedski is a different type of leader, and every time he speaks it is apparent that he is not a Home Counties boy. While his detractors point to his Canadian roots, however, his followers do not care. After all, Chelsea supporters are hard pushed to find a Londoner among the mix of French, Italian and Dutch footballers at Stamford Bridge, so why should a chap with a Canadian accent and a British passport be a problem?

While the professional rivalry between Henman and Rusedski is intense, off-court they seem to rub along well enough. They may not be bosom buddies but they get on as well as any work colleagues, all of which makes Britain's Davis Cup prospects look healthier. In the Ukraine last summer they joined forces to win the vital doubles tie and push Britain to an unlikely victory. Such a keen but friendly rivalry is one that the LTA is keen to reinforce.

But at the Westway Club in Shepherds Bush, West London, where the young hopefuls are serious about their tennis, the neat image does not wash. Many of the young players, who come from a broad range of social and cultural backgrounds, have met Henman and Rusedski on several occasions and while they warm to Rusedski's friendly manner, they are not prepared to follow either slavishly. They admire Rusedski's serve but realise that Henman is mentally tough; technically, they aim to copy the Rusedski thunderbolt and the Henman ground strokes.

According to Ronnie Maxwell, head coach at the Westway Club, the two men are a source of inspiration to his students. Additionally, he said, "meeting Tim and Greg gives them the added drive to work harder".

Tim is not quite so good at the PR side as Greg. Greg is more outgoing and the kids like that. But Greg is also higher in the rankings, and the children are clever enough to notice that.

Despite their different backgrounds, the kids here still recognise Tim and Greg as role models. They respect them and appreciate what they have done, but they still see Sampras and Hingis as the elite. In tennis, it seems, you have got to be good to be liked but you have got to win something big to be adored.

not limited to the information set out in the instrument or to evidence which was admissible in a court of law.

The contract for sale, declaration of trust and the transfer were all instruments relating to property situated in the United Kingdom and accordingly could not be given in evidence or made available for any purpose unless duly stamped: see section 144. However, the instruments were not nullities. Although unwise to do so, a person could accept an unstamped instrument if he wished.

The court was in a different position. It could not receive an unstamped document in evidence. But that did not preclude the court from resolving disputes of fact without reference to the inadmissible evidence.

The Revenue had assessed the transfer to duty as a "conveyance on sale". It was plainly right to do so. A transfer to a purchaser of the legal estate in property contracted to be sold was a conveyance on sale notwithstanding that the beneficial interest in the property had already passed to the transferee under a preceding contract for sale and the whole of the purchase consideration had been paid before the transfer.

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The Revenue was able to ascertain from the transferee to the transfer all the necessary information except the consideration for the sale. It could ascertain that from the copies of the contract and

the declaration of trust. The fact that it was supplied in the form of copies of unstamped instruments did not prevent it from taking cognisance of it. And on appeal the court was also entitled to look at the documents since they formed part of the stated case.

The purchaser was mis-convinced in arguing that section 14 of the Act prevented the Revenue and the court from looking at the copies because they constituted secondary evidence of unstamped documents and that without those documents there was no admissible evidence of the amount of the consideration.

An alternative argument raised by the purchaser was that if the documents could be received they showed that it was the declaration of trust which was the instrument which constituted the conveyance on sale and that as the property could not be conveyed twice over, the transfer was not a conveyance on sale.

The purchaser's primary argument was based on the untenable proposition that the Revenue was bound to disregard information that the purchaser was bound to and did supply.

An alternative argument had been knocked on the head almost 40 years ago in *Oughtred v IRC* (1960) AC 206.

Lord Justice Rotherham and Sir John Balcombe agreed.

Solicitors: Gouldens; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Court of Appeal

Transaction attracts stamp duty

Parfin (Hatfield) Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Lord Justice Rotherham, Lord Justice Millett and Sir John Balcombe [Judgment December 4]

Transactions executed outside the United Kingdom for the sale of commercial property that consisted of a declaration of trust by the vendor in favour of the purchaser and followed by a transfer of the legal estate in the property in the United Kingdom, did not avoid payment of stamp duty.

It was payable on the transfer and was to be assessed by reference to the purchase price recited in the declaration of trust as having been paid to the vendor. The evidence as to the price was not admissible merely because it was contained in the instrument that had replaced an earlier instrument.

The Court of Appeal held dismissing an appeal by way of case stated brought by the purchaser, Bishops Square Ltd, formerly Parfin (Hatfield) Ltd, from the decision of Mr Justice Lindsay on May 23, 1994, ((1994) 11 (1994) STC 93) upholding a determination by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and assessing the duty chargeable on the transfer at £372,230.

Mr Patrick Squire for the purchaser, Mr Michael Furness for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that in December 1993 the par-

chaser agreed to purchase the equitable interest in land at Bishop's Square, Hatfield, for £372,230.

Completion of the purchase took place on June 30, 1994, by two documents: first, a declaration of trust executed by the vendor in favour of the purchaser which recited that the purchase price had been paid to him; and second, the transfer of the property to the purchaser.

The contract for sale and the declaration of trust were executed and retained outside the United Kingdom. The transfer was delivered to the Revenue for adjudication together with photocopies of the declaration of trust and contract of sale. The only relevant fact which could not be ascertained from the recitals to the transfer was the amount of the consideration payable for the sale. The purchaser claimed that the transfer was stampable at 50p. The Revenue assessed duty at £372,230.

Section 1 of the 1891 Act provided for stamp duty to be charged on instruments of "conveyance or transfer of sale". Sections 54 and 59(1) defined such instruments as including contracts for sale of any equitable interest in any property.

Once the Commissioners were satisfied that they had the information necessary to enable them to assess the duty (see sections 5 and 12 of the Act) they had a statutory duty to do so. In so doing they were

not limited to the information set out in the instrument or to evidence which was admissible in a court of law.

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An alternative argument had been knocked on the head almost 40 years ago in *Oughtred v IRC* (1960) AC 206.

Lord Justice Rotherham and Sir John Balcombe agreed.

Solicitors: Gouldens; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Company inspectors' side letter admissible

Mr Miller. Only Mr James appeared on the present application.

Mr Roger Kaye, QC and Mr Mark Cunningham for the secretary of state: Mr Richard Sheldon, QC and Ms Felicity Touche for Mr James.

MR JUSTICE CRESSWELL said that on August 16, 1990 Mr Collie Rimer, QC and Mr John White, FCA, were appointed inspectors of Astra Holdings plc under Part XIV of the Companies Act 1985 while they were preparing their report. However, the court would order inspection of a side letter written on the same day as the report in which the inspectors expressed a view that conduct of a director did not merit disqualification.

The secretary of state sought a direction that the inspectors' own notes, drafts, internal materials and memos should not be produced for inspection pursuant to Order 24, rule 13 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. His Lordship ruled that these documents were neither admissible nor discoverable. A similar conclusion was reflected in an order by Mr Justice Jacob in *In re Atlantic Computers plc* (unreported, February 25, 1997).

The secretary of state also sought an order that a side letter from the secretary to the inspectors to the deputy inspector of company of the same date as the report, in which the inspectors expressed their views on disqualification, should not be produced for inspection pursuant to Order 24, rule 13.

Was it just or equitable that a respondent to an application for a disqualification order under section 8 of the 1985 Act should be expected to conduct his defence in proceedings where the inspectors' report was admissible under section 44, without being told that, for reasons set out in the side letter to the report, the inspectors expressed the view that conduct on the part of the respondent director considered in the report was not such as to justify the conclusion that the director was unfit to be concerned in the management of a company?

Disqualification proceedings were brought for the protection of the public. The proceedings had in many respects much more in common with criminal proceedings than with civil litigation.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Mr. Mitchell, Sheldon.

Law Report December 31 1997

Agreement is not a partnership

Khan and Another v Miah and Others

Before Lord Justice Rotherham, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Buxton [Judgment December 3]

An agreement to set up a business and to carry it on as a partnership was not proof that there was a partnership, say more statements by the parties to such an agreement that they were partners would on their own establish a partnership. Whether a business was being carried on by common consent was a question to be determined by looking at all the relevant circumstances.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of the defendants, Lucky Miah, Abdul Aslam, Kharesh Miah and Abdul Kussein against the order of Judge Roderick QC, on July 25, 1993, on an application for a preliminary injunction in the County Court, granting a declaration that a partnership existed between them.

The defendants' primary argument was based on the untenable proposition that the Revenue was bound to disregard information that the purchaser was bound to and did supply.

Its alternative argument had been knocked on the head almost 40 years ago in *Oughtred v IRC* (1960) AC 206.

Lord Justice Rotherham and Sir John Balcombe agreed.

Solicitors: Gouldens; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31 1997

ATHLETICS

Kipketer pulls out with visa problem

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE withdrawals of Wilson Boit Kipketer, the 3,000 metres steeplechase champion, and Iwan Thomas, the British 400 metres record-holder, kept organisers of the Co Durham international cross country races busy trying to fill the void today.

Boit Kipketer and his management team failed to renew his visa for entry to Britain, forcing him to pull out of Saturday's main race. Then Thomas scratched from the invitation 3,700m race, adding to the organisers' problems.

Thomas had agreed to run after a spur-of-the-moment social bet with the miler, Tony Whiteman. "I did it a little bit as a dare at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards," Thomas said before having to pull out yesterday because of injury.

He added: "Tony said he would lap me and I fell for the bait, telling him there was no way he could. I can tell you my coach isn't too pleased about me competing."

He has been saved a journey into unknown depths of stamina — and the long trip from his Southampton base to the North East — because he turned an ankle in training yesterday morning.

Nigel Gough, the race director, was annoyed after discovering Boit Kipketer would not be running — and the reason why — but he was more understanding about Thomas. "Bearing in mind that he has far greater priorities next summer at the European championships and Commonwealth Games, I know he has made the right decision," Gough said.

The organisers, though, were amazed to learn Boit Kipketer does not have a valid visa. Knowing that the Kenyan ran in Madrid the weekend before Christmas and has another competition planned in Spain tonight, Gough assumed there would be no immigration problems.

However, yesterday Boit Kipketer's manager sent a fax message saying the athlete, despite being constantly reminded to do so, had failed to renew his visa.

the North, Wright gave her side the perfect launching pad when she was on target from the penalty spot after her own stinging drive from a penalty corner was illegally stopped on the line. Louise Turney, a Birmingham University student and one of four Under-21 internationals in the Midlands squad, added a second 15 minutes later to put her team in charge.

The East clinched second place after Lizzie Aldous and Tanya Barnard scored in a 2-1 win against the North, and Barnard hit the only goal of the match against the South. Despite losing every match, the South can take heart from the fact that their under-16 team are national champions.

FINAL POSITIONS: 1, Midlands 12pts; 2, East 7; 3, North 6; 4, West 4; 5, South 0.

other works or services to establish the restaurant.

Having approached a bank in December to borrow money to buy the freehold of the premises, the bank manager was informed they were partners and that they had spent between them some £51,000 on the project. The bank undertook to lend the second plaintiff and the first and third defendants up to £60,000, the intention being to open the restaurant on December 13.

The freehold was acquired by the third defendant at auction and, it being agreed that the second plaintiff and the third defendant would each subscribe to the 20 per cent of the purchase price not covered by the bank loan.

Prior to the restaurant's opening on February 14, 1994, furniture and equipment was purchased, the restaurant was advertised in the local press, and a contract entered into on credit in London.

Although the second plaintiff had difficulty in finding his half of the 20 per cent, completion of the sale took place on January 21. Because of the difficulties, including some involving the building works, the plaintiffs and defendants fell out.

The judge had found that the relationship between the second plaintiff and the defendants was terminated by the former's solicitor's letter of January 25. He did not doubt that a business existed between two or more persons by December 1, 1993, and concluded

Mr Edward Davidson, QC and Mr Stephen Hancock for the second and third defendants; the first defendant in person: Mr Nicholas Yell for the second plaintiff.

Mr Justice Buxton said that in 1993 the first and second defendants approached the second plaintiff, who had capital available, to open an Indian restaurant in Newbury, the first defendant to be manager, the second defendant to be the chef and the first plaintiff, who was not a partner but an employee, to be the second chef.

The third defendant, experienced in the restaurant trade and proprietor of another restaurant, was brought into the project, and he obtained

CRICKET: WARNE'S THREAT BLUNTED AFTER CAPTURE OF TWO EARLY WICKETS

Kallis leads rearguard action

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TAKING heart from a maiden Test century from Jacques Kallis, South Africa held Australia to a draw in Melbourne yesterday, ending the final day at 273 for seven, 108 short of what was always an unlikely victory target.

Kallis, 22, who was playing in only his seventh Test match, occupied the crease for six hours while scoring 101. He rated his century as easily the highlight of a career that was interrupted in October when he was forced to fly home from the tour of Pakistan after undergoing an operation for appendicitis.

"It was a fantastic feeling to score a century for my country, especially to help save a Test match against Australia at the MCG," Kallis, who faced 279 balls and hit six boundaries, said. He added that his experience in the county championship with Middlesex last season had helped improve his technique.

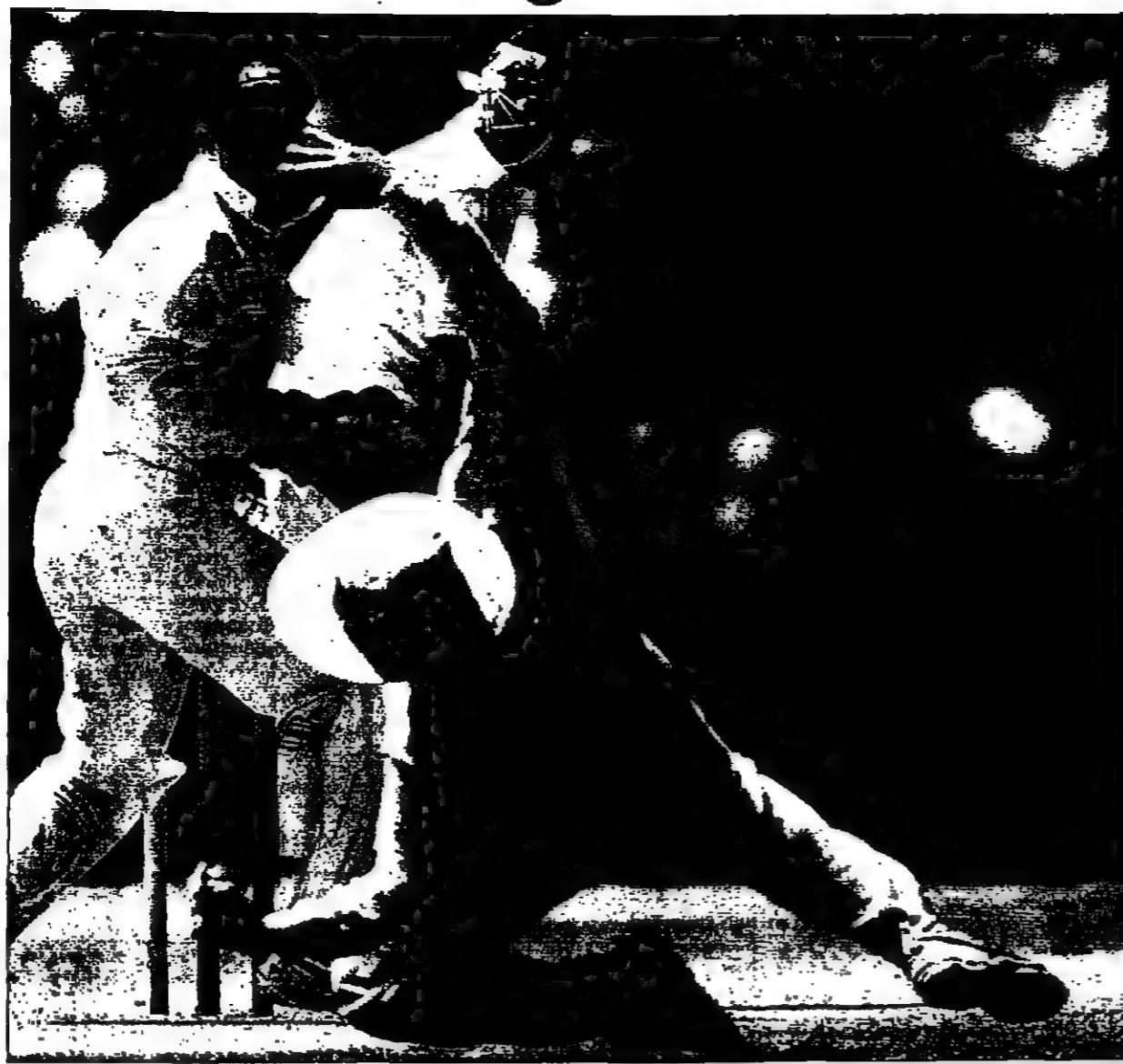
It was very satisfying for me to prove it is now good enough for me to bat for the equivalent of a whole day in a Test match," Kallis, who was averaging 16.62 at the start of his innings, said.

South Africa, resuming at 79 for one, soon found themselves 88 for three as Warne sent back Bacher for 39, with the aid of yet another brilliant slip catch by Mark Taylor, and bowled Cullinan before he had scored. After such a start, it seemed likely that Warne would bowl his side to victory, with time to spare, on a wearing pitch.

Kallis and Hansie Cronje, his captain, had other ideas, however, adding 123 before Cronje was caught at slip off Steve Waugh. It took a superb delivery from Paul Reiffel to account for Kallis, the ball nipping back to clip the off stump.

Although there were some nervous moments for South Africa in the final hour, Shaun Pollock and Laurren Klusener held firm. Warne, who was responsible for 35 of the 92 overs bowled on the final day, finished with three for 97.

Kallis, who was hit in the ribs by a ball from Glenn McGrath just before tea, was particularly proud of the way that he had played the leg spinner. "He certainly bowled very well and he was un-



Taylor, the Australia captain, snatches a brilliant slip catch to send back Bacher off the bowling of Warne

lucky," Kallis said. "On other days, he might have taken more wickets. The ball was turning and he is one of the best bowlers in the world, but the whole side decided to be positive."

Taylor, the Australia captain, believed that his side had dominated the opening encounter of the three-match series. "We kept our noses in front for the first four days and there was only one team with any hope of winning the match on the final day," he said. He acknowledged that South Africa's confidence would have been lifted by avoiding defeat, a view shared by Cronje.

"This will certainly boost

our morale," Cronje said. "Our attitude from the first ball of the innings was to play naturally, rather than just try to play safe." Paying tribute to Kallis, for whom he forecast a long career at Test level,

Cronje said: "I don't think too much bothers him. He's very much like Ernie Els when he gets going, just very keen on doing a job and doing it well."

Michael Bevan, dropped

from the Australia team for the second time during last summer's tour of England, when he was unable to handle the short-pitched ball, has been recalled to the squad for the second Test, which starts at Sydney on Friday. He replaces Andrew Bichel, who was the twelfth man at Sydney.

Bevan, a middle-order batsman and left-arm wrist spinner, is likely to be included in the final XI at Sydney if the pitch seems likely to help the spinners, as it usually does on this ground. For the same reason, South Africa have put Paul Adams, their unorthodox left-lander, on standby to partner Pat Symcox.

It's the thing that struck me the most," she said. "It hit me very hard early on. A lot of the girls tried to protect

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 500 (R T Linstead 101, S R Waugh 85, P L Symcox 4 for 68). Second Innings 257 (P R Reiffel 79 not out, M A Taylor 59, A A Donald 6 for 59).	
TOTAL (7 wickets) 757	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-89, 3-88, 4-211, 5-229, 6-241, 7-280.	
BOWLING: McGrath 25-11-57-4; Reiffel 10-1-60-2; Waugh 10-0-67-3; S R Waugh 7-2-12-1; Bevan 1-0-4. Umpires: S A Bachan (West Indies) and S G Randal (Australia).	
TESTS TO COME: Sydney (Jan 2-4); Adelaid (Jan 30-Feb 3).	

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Beginners are taught to lead high from a doubleton honour, as declarer as well as defence, to unblock suits and maintain fluidity. While this may be sound advice on the whole, it need not apply when declarer has ample communications between hands. For example, declarer has A Q J 4 3 facing 10 2 in hand with unlimited entries. Players find it hard to resist leading the ten, the "natural" card, yet it can never gain a trick in the suit and stands to lose a trick if there is singleton king onside. A similar combination cropped up in the England junior trials this year:

Dealer South East-West game IMPs

♦K104	♦1076
♦K86	♦AJ72
♦762	♦K532
♦K53	♦104
♦A5	♦VAK
♦AQ5742	♦KQ8

Contract: Six No-Trumps by South

Lead: Six of spades

playing diamonds for one loser. Declarer won the spade lead in hand, crossed to dummy in clubs and made the natural-looking play of leading the ten of diamonds, which resulted in two losers in the suit.

To take two diamond finesses is the right idea, but better play is to start by leading the six, intending to finesse the nine if East follows small; that gains over leading the ten when East holds the singleton jack or king.

You might think that leading the ten would gain against singleton king with West, but East covers from J 8 5 3, declarer puts in the queen, catering for singleton three or five with West, and East later scores the eight.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SENECHAL
a. A diamond cluster
b. An early flush toilet
c. A major domo

SLEIPNER
a. A mythical horse
b. A Mozart symphony
c. An aircraft engine

SELVYTT
a. A duster
b. Small freshwater fish
c. A table ornament

LAGAPOUS
a. Detritus
b. Footlike
c. Non-alcoholic

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams out

After a marathon eight draws, Michael Adams lost the ninth game to Viswanathan Anand in the Fide championship in Groningen. Anand will play Anatoly Karpov in the final, which starts on January 1.

Hastings tournament

Britain's strongest tournament, the Hastings Premier, is under way at the Clique Ports Hotel, Hastings. The first round saw wins by grandmasters Plaskett, Hebdon and Sandler.

White: Luke McShane

Black: Mark Hebdon

Hastings Premier December 1997

Sicilian Defence

White: Eliot Relange

Black: Matthew Sandler

Hastings Premier December 1997

Ruy Lopez

White: Eliot Relange

Black: Matthew Sandler

Hastings Premier December 1997

Sicilian Defence

White: Eliot Relange

Black: Matthew Sandler

Hastings Premier December 1997

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offers hope
for future

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31 1997

SPORT 39

RACING

Alner keen to preserve rural link for rising stars

By CHRIS MCGRATH

FOR many, the spiritual home of National Hunt racing is not Cheltenham, where the very hills seem to wear weed. It is a muddy field in February, the rainclouds merging dawn and dusk, a place for wellies and an old wax jacket. In point-to-point racing, one is near the Turt's grass roots — and the new year means the start of a new season, the Irish leading the way with the South Union Foxhounds fixture at Rochestown tomorrow.

Point-to-pointing treasures its heritage, echoing the days when steeplechasing literally signified a cross-country race with churches as the starting and finishing post. Though the pastime of a largely conservative, rural constituency, it is thriving as never before. With purses as small as £100, competitors and spectators alike find sheer sporting endeavour to be compulsion enough.

Paul Barber, part-owner of

See More Business, used that horse's King George VI Chase success at Kempton on Boxing Day as an opportunity to urge everyone in racing to share that pure motivation — a pointed rejoinder to the Makin brothers' recent lamentations about prize-money on the Flat. Whatever the merits of that debate, See More Business had, unarguably, demonstrated that racing and point-to-pointing are intimately entwined.

Robert Alner, who made his name between the flags but now trains with considerable success under Rules, believes that the same logic unites the hunting field, point-to-point and mainstream racing. The new season finds that pyramid menaced by the campaign against hunting. Doubtless the two upper "tiers" would manage to sustain themselves without a country way of life and a sport. It would be a shame if that link were broken by people who don't understand that way of life.

"So many horses come into

racing through point-to-pointing," he said yesterday. "A couple of years ago at Larkhill, See More Business won on the same card as Cool Dawn, Harwell Lad and Hanakham, while Suny Bay and Ask Tom once ran in the same maiden race in Ireland.

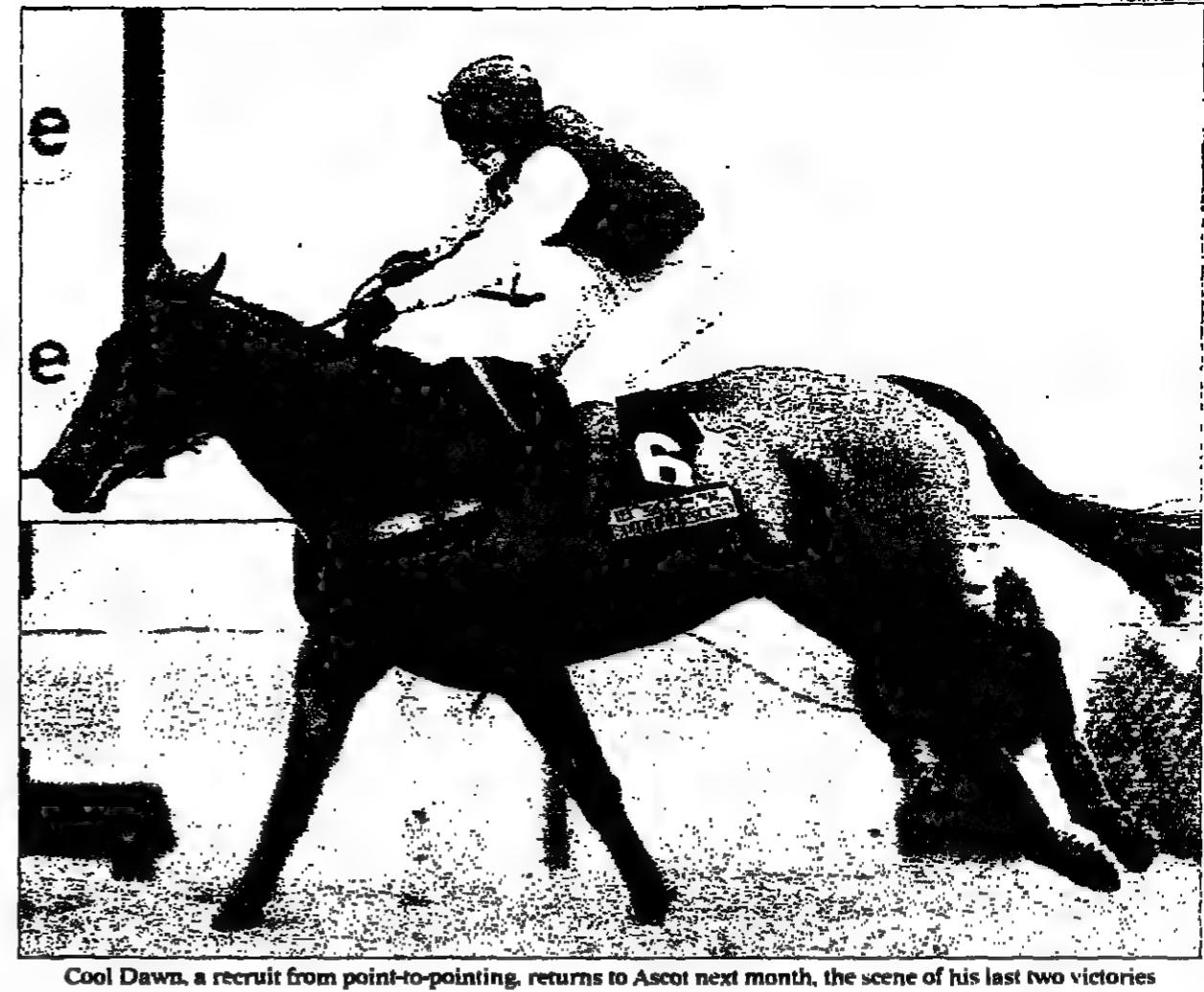
Hunting and point-to-pointing provide young horses with the ideal introduction to chasing. They learn how to handle themselves without being put under the sort of pressure they would face over hurdles against faster, more experienced horses off the Flat. The ones I get from Tom Costello in Ireland have been loose-schooled even before they are broken in.

"Not just the horses, though — jockeys, too, people like Scudamore and Dunwoody and now Robert Thornton. There is a definite link here between a country way of life and a sport. It would be a shame if that link were broken by people who don't understand that way of life."

Alner added that Cool Dawn, who has now graduated to the fringe of Gold Cup class, will return to Ascot, scene of his recent Bettweare Cup success, for a handicap on January 23.

Another horse groomed in point-to-points is Florida Pearl, brilliant winner of his first novice chase at Leopardstown on Monday. He won a maiden at Lismore before emerging as the top bumper performer of last season. Foxchapel King, another exciting prospect, won a point-to-point for five-year-olds and upward when later discovered to be only four.

If Florida Pearl set the standard for the "crop" of novices at Leopardstown, the same venue may yet reveal a British horse to match it. Bob Buckler, Alner's Dorset neighbour, sparing Copper Boy his engagement at Cheltenham tomorrow, instead eyeing the Dr P Moriarty Memorial Chase at Leopardstown on February 8.



Cool Dawn, a recruit from point-to-pointing, returns to Ascot next month, the scene of his last two victories

WARWICK

THUNDERER

12.30 Kadou Nonnatais 2.00 Stanmore
1.00 Avant Express 2.30 Macy
1.30 Line Of Conquest 3.00 Obilimaze

Timeticker's top rating: 2.00 STANMORE

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.30 TINY TIN NOVICES HURDLE (22.965; 2m) (17 runners)
101 12.10P PROMISE MILL 19 (3d 9m 5) Mr P. Hobbs 5-11-12 N. Williamson
102 10.10P BELARUS 25 (3d 11m 5) Mr P. Hobbs 5-11-12 J. Gately
103 8.10P CHARLIE CHAN 11 (A) (3d 11m 5) Mr P. Hobbs 5-11-12 M. B. Blackwell
104 6.04P COUNTRY ARK 20 (5d 11m 5) Mr P. Hobbs 5-11-12 C. Costello
105 4.04P DUNLOP 19 (3d 11m 5) Mr P. Hobbs 5-11-12 M. B. Blackwell
106 2.04P FAIRY MAN 7-19 (5d 11m 5) Mr P. Hobbs 5-11-12 J. Gately
107 1.04P KACOU ROMANTAS 25 (G) (3d 11m 5) Mr P. Hobbs 5-11-12 J. McCarthy
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Goulding: ambitious

Larder names players who could cross codes

Phil Larder, the England rugby union coaching adviser and former coach of the Great Britain rugby league team, said yesterday that Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens international scrum half, who has invited offers for a cross-code transfer to union, was one of several leading league players capable of making a successful transition to the 15-man game.

Larder bracketed Goulding, 25, with Gary Connolly, Jason Robinson, Andy Farrell and Paul Newlove, who, he said recently, could switch codes before the 1998 Rugby World Cup as individuals capable of making outstanding contributions at club level and, possibly, for England.

Goulding's agent has notified leading clubs in the Allied Dunbar Premiership and invited

transfer offers. His C.V. on the circular says: "Bobbie Goulding, Aged 25, St Helens, Great Britain. Video available (not that he needs one)."

"Frankly, I'm surprised, as Bobbie is steeped in a league background, which is why, originally, I wouldn't have seen him changing codes," Larder said. "He's a seasoned international player, with a sweet pair of hands and a great kicking game, who I signed from Leeds for Widnes."

"In union, he could possibly make it at either scrum half or fly half because of the way he can control a game. Personally, I think any one of the international league side could make the transition into union successfully and vice-versa, with the possible exception of the specialist prop positions and lineout jumpers."

England coaching adviser marks the card of Christopher Irvine on league players who would prosper in the union game

The likes of Bobbie Goulding possess the mental toughness to succeed in making the switch.

Goulding, who attracted the interest of Saracens and Richmond earlier this year and has two years left on his contract at St Helens, where he earns around £150,000 annually, is happy to stay in league if the money in union is not satisfactory.

"If a top union club can buy out my contract, though, and meet personal terms, I'm ambitious to make the switch and reach the very highest level," he said. "The recent England internationals

against New Zealand, South Africa and Australia were a joy to watch. The game and the way England are trying to play have come on immensely."

"My ambitions would not stop at club level. I've achieved most things in eight years in league and if the right offer came along, I'd move tomorrow if in my family's best interests."

In the new climate of belt-tightening, gambling up to £500,000 on someone whose previous union experience was for Lancashire Schools — where Kyran Bracken, the England

two high-profile players to union, but the game itself is bigger than individuals and the salary cap is being put in place for the game's well-being. If union continues spending beyond its means, it too, will be forced into action."

At Premiership level, most of the league players who have switched successfully were union players originally. Goulding would become the first high-profile league-bred player to make a permanent move to union in the professional era. The experiences this week of two former colleagues of his at Leeds and Widnes, Simon Irving (one of a dozen players at Wakefield to have their contracts cancelled) and Christian Tyer (released by Bath after 15 months) indicate that the grass on the other side of the fence is not always greener.

RUGBY UNION

Cost imperatives force Bristol to weigh priorities

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

GOING into 1997, many English first division clubs believed that European rugby might be the universal panacea: on the eve of 1998, the call is for strong domestic competition. In this, at least, they are at one with the Rugby Football Union, but, for all clubs, their ambition requires even greater definition.

Domestic rugby — for the leading clubs — encompasses both Allied Dunbar Premiership and Tetley's Bitter Cup, but, of the two, the former is far more significant, not only because success carries with it qualification for European competition but because of the commercial spin-offs attached to the elite. Thus it is that Bristol's meeting with Harlequins in the first division of the Premiership at the Stoop Memorial Ground this afternoon must carry greater weight than progress in the cup, in which they play Worcester on Sunday.

There is little pleasure in being the bottom club in the first division, particularly if you have the traditions that Bristol possess, but if ever a club needs to tighten its belt, with debt hanging over it and the sale of its ground on the cards, it is Bristol, whose players have managed only one win from eight games this season, conceding 300 points during that time.

Yesterday, Bristol announced that six members of the first-team squad would be placed on the transfer list: "We are looking for a tighter squad, one which still gives us reasonable cover but probably around the 30 mark," Fred Howard, the rugby manager, said. "These players deserve to be playing regular rugby, which we are

unlikely to be in a position to offer in the future."

The restructuring process leaves no room for two hookers, Jim Dickin and Brian Guly, Andy Collins, the England Under-21 prop, Chris Moore, a back-row forward who has played for the Combined Services, and two young backs, Stefan Jones and Niall Millett.

Bristol have already purchased this season the kind of experience that they hope will keep them in the first division in the shape of two Frenchmen, Thierry Dervigne and Fabrice Landreau. In addition

Karl Kumbier, the Fylde forward, has been called up by Germany. Kumbier will travel with the Germany team on January 2 for matches in Brazil, Uruguay and Chile, which are warm-up games for the forthcoming World Cup qualifying match with Portugal.

Indeed, Adam Larkin, a centre from New Zealand, arrives this week. They began the season with a squad of around 40, but may go as low as 25 full-time professionals, so long as the club can sustain the quality of the youngsters to whom it can offer bursaries.

At the same time, Bristol are pondering the future of their second team, Bristol United, who have lost five of their past six games because opponents have cried off, leaving expensive players kicking their heels in idleness. They may turn to a development XV, though, if they listen to Clive Woodward, the England coach, they will pour resources into under-21 to five.

Glasgow's preparations hampered by injuries

BY KEVIN FERRE

CALEDONIA REDS and Edinburgh named their teams yesterday for the final round of district championship matches on Sunday, leaving Glasgow, the title favourites, as the only side yet to fully reveal their hand.

The day is promising to be perhaps the most important in Scotland's domestic calendar, with an extraordinary variety of permutations possible among the four participants in what doubles as the European qualifying competition.

The top three will take part in the Heineken Cup next season, with the fourth contesting the European Conference, yet any one of three districts can still win the title and thus earn what should be the least difficult draw in the Heineken Cup. Only Glasgow are sure of not missing out altogether.

Caledonia, the champions, could finish in any of the four

rugby, an area that Woodward believes to be crucial to the future of clubs as well as a country. Meanwhile, Bristol must go to the Stoop today without Robert Jones, their captain and scrum half, who is in need of a rest, while another international, Kevin Maggs, the Ireland centre, damaged a finger during the 50-8 defeat by Newcastle last Saturday. Their places go respectively to Gareth Barber, late of Aberavon and Oxford University, and Simon Martin, while the captaincy falls to Paul Burke, the erstwhile Ireland fly half.

Bristol have also adjusted their back three: Ian Jones, the Welshman who played at full back against Newcastle, moves to the wing and Josh Lewsey, the England Under-21 player who was a late replacement for Jones on Saturday, keeps his place at a ground where they last won in February 1995 — and that by a single point.

Indeed, it is more than seven months since Bristol last won an away league game, ignoring the play-off match at Bedford last season that kept them in the first division (for this year at least). In the 14 league games that they have played against Harlequins, they have left the Stoop successful on only two occasions. Harlequins may have had problems of their own this season, notably in terms of injuries among the tight-five forwards, where Andy Yates, who has proped for both Sale and Wakefield, stands by to make his debut, but the London side will hope to extend their sequence of consecutive victories over Bristol to five.

Caledonia can still boast six caps in their XV — Rowan Shepherd, Derrick Patterson, John Manson, Stuart Grimes, Dave McIvor and Rob Wright — compared to the three included in Glasgow's 22-man squad listed yesterday. Glasgow cited niggling injuries for the delay in finalising their side, but were unwilling to identify those causing concern. James Craig had been ruled out earlier with a hamstring injury.

Although they have Scotland's most-capped player in their side for the meeting with the Borders, Edinburgh continue to have an unusually inexperienced look. Scott Hastings may be one of five international players in the squad, but the other four — Duncan Hodge, Barry Stewart, Stuart Reid and Cameron Glasgow, a substitute — have only nine caps between them.

One of the big selection issues was the inclusion of Hastings — not whether he would play, but where. He has performed well at full back for Watsonians in recent weeks, but Bob Eason, the Edinburgh coach, said: "Our full back, Hugh Gilmore, is returning to full fitness and I am happy with the club partnership of Scott Hastings and Jamie Mayer at centre. I think that gives us the right balance." John Walters, the Boroughmuir wing, a 25-year-old who has played 60 times for Waikato, will make his district debut six months after arriving from New Zealand.

EDINBURGH vs SCOTTISH BORDERERS: H. Walters (Edinburgh), S. Hastings (Edinburgh), J. Gilmore (Edinburgh), S. Reid (Edinburgh), D. Hodge (Watsonians), G. Burns (Watsonians), P. McMurtry (Watsonians), G. Stewart (Edinburgh), S. Reid (Edinburgh), G. Burns (Watsonians), D. Burns (Boroughmuir), M. Blair (Clyde), T. McVie (Horn's F.P.), M. Willis (Watsonians), S. Reid (Boroughmuir), captain

TEAMS

CALEDONIA REDS vs GLASGOW HAWKS: S. Longstaff (Dundee H.S.P.), J. McLaren (String), P. Reid (Edinburgh), M. McFadzean (Edinburgh), D. Patterson (Hawks), P. J. Marson (West of Scotland), G. Scott (Dundee H.S.P.), W. Anderson (Kirkcaldy), J. Whyte (West of Scotland), M. McFadzean (West of Scotland), D. McVie (Hawks), R. Warrington (Dundee H.S.P. captain), G. Flockhart (String), C. Reppen (String), D. McFadzean (West of Scotland), J. Whyte (West of Scotland), G. Burns (Watsonians), G. McCall (Edinburgh), D. Burns (Boroughmuir), K. McKenzie (String), D. Hemming (Kirkcaldy)

GLASGOW HAWKS: B. Bullock (West of Scotland), A. Collier (West of Scotland), F. McFadzean (West of Scotland), G. Burns (Watsonians), C. Little (Glasgow Hawks), G. McCall (Watsonians), G. Summers (Glasgow Hawks), D. Stark (Watsonians), captain

Jordan collects another record



THE irresistible Michael Jordan drives for the basket on the way to collecting another record in his magnificent career when leading the Chicago Bulls to a 111-105 victory over Dallas Mavericks in a National Basketball Association (NBA) game on Monday night. Jordan scored 41 points to equal Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's record of scoring ten points or more in 87 consecutive games.

Despite Jordan's landmark, the game was dominated by Dennis Rodman, who foiled Don Nelson's intend to foul strategy and just missed a triple-double, getting 27 rebounds, 11 points and eight assists as

the Bulls stretched their winning streak to eight games and extended the Mavericks' losing streak to 12. Rodman's was his season's highest points total. He also matched his career highs in free throws attempted (12) and made (nine).

At Houston, David Wesley scored 21 of his 32 points in the first quarter, leading a barrage of three-point shooting as the Charlotte Hornets ended their three-game losing streak by beating the Rockets 120-101. The Hornets shooting at 37 per cent connected on 12 of 33 from behind the arc and shot 60 per cent overall.

Del Curry came off the bench to add 23 points, going six out of eight from three-point range, and Anthony Mason had 20. Clyde Drexler and Kevin Willis were the joint-top-scorers for Houston with 18 points apiece and Charles Barkley had 12 rebounds.

Keith Van Horn, a rookie, had a career-high 32 points and ten rebounds as the New Jersey Nets avenged their worst defeat of the season by beating Washington Wizards 99-91. Jason Williams collected 19 points and 22 rebounds as the Nets prevailed despite making just two field goals in the fourth quarter. Chris Webber scored 22 points for Washington.

CRICKET

Success of Brown is cause for optimism

BY KEVIN FERRE

WATCHING Doug Brown, the Warwickshire all-rounder, sharing in England's recent triumph in Sharjah was a bittersweet experience for members of the club that first nurtured his cricketing talent.

There is, after all, something almost perverse about Clackmannanshire County, based in Alloa, sharing in the reflected glory of Brown's success on the international stage at a time when they are struggling to preserve their status because the supply of local talent has dried up.

It is fortunate that the citizens of the place that Scots call "the Wee County" are not possessed of a small-town mentality. Otherwise, how could someone who played in goal for Scotland as a schoolboy even contemplate turning out for the Auld Enemy?

"I had absolutely no qualms about playing for England, because it is the pinnacle of my profession, but I did have some about not playing for Scotland," Brown said. "However, I realised that I could also do more good for Scotland by playing for England than I could by playing for Scotland in the World Cup."

That ability to see the bigger picture is shared by former club-mates. Mahindra Patel was one of the six-man Scottish Cricket Union (SCU) steering group whose proposal effectively threw Clackmannanshire out of the new Scottish National Cricket League for the next two years. Alex Ritchie, another club member, the SCU's general manager, was the steering group's secretary.

Relegated from the Scottish Cricket League last season, Clackmannanshire hoped that they might be saved by restructuring that was introduced to integrate the Western Union clubs and create a truly national competition. Instead, a three-conference set-up for next season, aimed at creating a new three-division league for 1999, left no opportunity for their return before 2000. Clackmannanshire believed that they had a legal case that would have allowed them to block the changes, but chose not to pursue that course.

Now Clackmannanshire officials appreciate that they must seek to capitalise on Brown's success and re-establish the youth policy that brought him to prominence. Their failure to attract youngsters in recent years has given rise to an ageing second XI that is having trouble fulfilling its fixtures, contributing to the lack of reserve strength in a first XI that will now play in the feeder East League.

Cricket's image in Central Scotland has, of course, always had a problem, perceived as a game only for those with upper-class pretensions. However, with achievements such as taking two West Indies wickets in the first three balls of a match, including the removal of Brian Lara, Brown may be able to change that.



Brown: Sharjah triumph

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CRICKET

Success of
Brown is
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optimism

Arise Sir Glenn as England triumph on away goals

Russell Kempson dusts down his crystal ball and takes a
light-hearted look at what is in store for football in 1998

JANUARY — Wales slump to No 172 in Fifa world rankings, below Greenland, Tasmania and the Falkland Islands. "Greenland, fair enough, but the Falklands?" Bobby Gould jokes. England drawn against Italy and Germany in same European championship qualifying group. "It's not good but it's not bad," Glenn Hoddle says. "They've all got to be beaten." Wales draw Greenland. Christian Gross, formerly of FC Tolberham, admits shake-up at Tottenham is not working. Terry Venables resigns as Australia coach to mastermind Jersey bid to stage 2006 World Cup finals.

FEBRUARY — Frank Clark leaves Manchester City after reasoning that the impossible job is, indeed, impossible. Georgi Kinkladze returns to Georgia. "It is quieter than Moss Side," he reflects. England recall Peter Shilton in goal and beat Belize 8-0 in World Cup warm-up. "There's no substitute for experience," Hoddle explains. Barry Fry leaves Peterborough United for Galatasaray, prompting memorable headline: "Fry's Turkish Delight." Brian Little signs Eddie Large as Villa Park assistant, with Harry Hug as first-team coach and Tiny Tim as physio. Chairman Doug Ellis fails to see joke and retires.

MARCH — Matthew Le Tissier left out of England World Cup

squad, snubs Hoddle and appeals to Fifa for permission to play for beloved Guernsey. Stan Collymore waves to adoring Hull Enders and is immediately substituted owing to exhaustion. Reading beat Ipswich Town 7-6 in classic Coca-Cola Cup final at Wembley. Trevor Morley scores winning goal. Uefa give back Uefa Cup place. Reading contemplate playing Real Madrid. Mick McCarthy unveils new 6ft 10in Irish ace, Lenny Leprechaun, in O'Reilly's bar.

APRIL — England lose 4-1 to San Marino en route to France. "Four breakaway goals against the run of play," Hoddle muses. Fifa announces Thailand, Indone-

Great Save Shilton!

sia and Bolivia will co-host 2002 World Cup finals with Japan and South Korea. Howard Kendall replaced by Joe Royle at Everton. Football League considers Options Earth. Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto. Wimbledon complete move to Dublin.

MAY — Vauxhall Conference champions, Hednesford Town, refused entry to Football League on grounds that their toilets are not awful enough for third division. Late run from Portsmouth earns runners-up place in first division. Venables decries public holiday in Pompey. Plymouth Argyle take second division title. Macclesfield Town win third division. Manchester United lose European Cup final 4-0 to Juventus. Alex Ferguson blames the referee, weather, pitch, fans, everyone bar his players. Wimbledon win FA Cup Final. Eric Cantona recalled to France squad. "I thank the seagulls," he writes. "They fly so freely."

JUNE — World Cup finals get under way with Fifa ruling that players will only be suspended if they receive eight bookings. England cruise through group matches. Scotland lose 3-0 to Morocco but reach second round by drawing lots. "Nae problem," Craig Brown insists. Hristo Stoichkov takes over as Bulgaria coach in mid-tournament. "I know more than anyone," he says. "I'm the greatest."

JULY — Fifa announces 2002 finals will comprise 64 countries. Arsène Wenger, incognito in Marseilles, signs four more Frenchmen for Arsenal. England win World Cup final, drawing 2-2 with France but winning on away

goals. Hoddle praises the Lord and is knighted. Roy Keane recovers from knee injury and returns for pre-season training with Manchester United. Gets sent off in five-a-side game at The Cliff and fined for calling Ferguson a moaner. Paul Gascoigne quits Rangers in £250 move to Oregon Glaziers in the United

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AUGUST — Ron Atkinson leaves Derby Wednesday for Golden Bracelet FC of Hong Kong. "I hope the island's big enough for me," he webbles. Sam Hammam opens Guinness and Giblets bar in Dublin. Reading decide to rename newly-opened Madejski Stadium because no one can spell it. "We're now going to call it Elm Park," chairman John Madejski says. Members of triumphant England squad given permission to miss first two weeks of season because of tiredness. Manchester City open second division campaign with three successive defeats. "You've just got to roll with it," Noel Gallagher, the manager, croons.

SEPTEMBER — Fabrizio Ravanelli rejoins Middlesbrough from Marseilles. "It was hell," he confides. "I now appreciate the beauty of Teesside and, by the way, can I have a pay rise?" Manchester United, Premiership victors, drawn in same group as runners-up Chelsea, third-placed Arsenal and fourth-placed Tottenham in revamped Champions League format. "We only want

the best from each country," Uefa spokesman says. Wolverhampton Wanderers struggle at start of another Nationwide League campaign. "One more defeat and you're out," Sir Jack Hayward warns Mark McGhee. Brighton announce plans to groundshare with Sussex CCC.

OCTOBER — Wales lose opening European qualifying game 1-0 away in Andorra. "Too much snow, we should've brought our skis," Gould laments. Micky Adams leaves Brentford and manages Wycombe Wanderers. Leyton Orient and Southend United, all in the same week, before returning to Fulham. "I'm home at last," he coos. Rio Ferdinand warned by

NOVEMBER — England squad depleted by food poisoning but still beat Azerbaijan 1-0 away in Euro qualifier. Hoddle praises lads for "running all day". Adams, Bould, Dixon and Winterburn leave Arsenal for retirement home. Wenger goes talent-spotting in Strasbourg. Bobby Robson replaces Roy Evans at Liverpool. "I've always wanted to end my career at Goodison Park," he mumbles. Ken Bates voted life-chairman of Chelsea by overwhelming majority of 10. Gross departs White Hart Lane. Wales go off the Fifa clock. Rankings only reach 292.

DECEMBER — Nicky Barmby demands move from Everton. "I'm homesick," he whinges. "I want to return to where I was brought up, wherever that is, and another signing-on fee would be nice, too." Pfa consider idea of splitting games into nine 15-minute periods to accommodate advertisers. Martin O'Neill down vacant Northern Ireland job. "It would have been fantastic, smashing, incredible, brilliant, magnificent, out of this world," he rues, "but it was not to be."

FOOTBALL

Ferdinand commits himself to West Ham

By RUSSELL KEMPSON AND RICHARD HOBSON

RIO FERDINAND, the England and West Ham United defender, has signed a seven-year contract that will keep him at Upton Park until 2005. His decision to agree a three-year extension to his existing four-year deal ends speculation that Manchester United were planning to make an offer for one of the most promising young players in the country.

Ferdinand, 19, has risen through the youth and reserve ranks at West Ham to command a regular first-team place in less than a year. He has also graduated from the England Under-21 team to and is almost certain to win a place in the squad for the World Cup finals in France next year.

He was earning around £400 a week only 15 months ago yet is now well on his way to millionaire status. "The club gave me my big chance and I want to repay them for that," Ferdinand said yesterday. "It's tattering that a club like Manchester United should be linked with me, but everything is going well at West Ham. While that continues, I want to be part of it."

The solitary blemish in Ferdinand's swift progress came in September, when he was found guilty of drink-driving and dropped by Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, from the squad to play Moldova. He was reinstated last month and made his senior debut in the 2-0 victory at Wembley.

Players and supporters of Tottenham Hotspur have called for calm in the wake of persistent reports that Christian Gross, the new coach, was going to leave the club after less than six weeks in charge. The speculation intensified on Monday when Fritz Schmid, a fitness adviser, was refused a work permit to join Gross at White Hart Lane.

Adding to the uncertainty,

Les Ferdinand, the cousin of Rio Ferdinand, and Darren Anderton have publicly questioned Gross's training methods, claiming that they were possibly hampering their return from injuries.

Colin Calderwood, the Scotland and Tottenham defender, said: "All players are unhappy when they're injured and Les and Darren are no exception. They just want to be in the team, it's the same at every club in the country. They're bound to be a bit upset, but, hopefully, they won't be out for longer than two or three weeks."

Bernie Kinsley, chairman of the Tottenham Independent Supporters' Association, said: "I think the fans are still prepared to give Gross a chance."

Paulo Wanchope, among the brightest new faces to emerge in 1997, was given a warning about his conduct during a clear-the-air meeting with Jim Smith, the Derby County manager, yesterday. It followed Wanchope's petulant response to being substituted during the FA Carling Premiership game against Barnsley last Sunday, and what Smith described as a "verbal exchange" afterwards in the dressing-room at Oakwell.

Wanchope's importance to Derby was underlined, however, when Aljosha Asanovic completed a move to Napoli, the bottom side in Serie A, for a fee of around £350,000 yesterday. Asanovic, signed for £950,000 last year, wants to play regular first-team football in the build-up to the World Cup next summer.

Sheffield Wednesday are to have fresh talks with Hajduk Split in a bid to salvage the deal for the Macedonia international, Goco Sedliski, who failed a medical at Hillsborough before Christmas. Split say they are happy with the results of a second medical.

Those same supporters, aware of his solid track record as assistant to John King at Tranmere Rovers and his desire to replace the departed Danny Bergara, staged sit-ins on the pitch and began a campaign to secure his appointment as last season ended in predictable chaos. One businessman pledged money to strengthen the team if Moore were appointed.

At the time, he was five

months into managing Southport, but although Rotherham were unhappy at having to pay compensation to the Vauxhall Conference club, the alternative was too unpopular

to countenance. "I was the only one taking a gamble," Moore said. "I could easily have lost face. The task was enormous, but if things went wrong, the board could turn around to the fans and say they had acted on demand."

At the moment, the directors are more likely to say

"thank you". After beginning the season poorly, Rotherham have climbed to fourth in the third division. Moreover, they have progressed with an attractive style, embracing a sweeper and out-and-out wingers. Only Charlton Athletic and Peterborough United have scored more League

goals and the FA Cup third-round tie at home to Sunderland on Saturday, pitting Moore's wits against Peter Reid, a team-mate at schoolboy level in Huyton, is further evidence of progress. Recognition came in November, when he was named divisional manager of the month.

Moore has fostered a togetherness about the club. Where players drifted off after matches, it is now compulsory to stay behind for at least an hour to chew over proceedings informally. He has introduced afternoon training sessions, not only to improve technique but to ensure that the players — there are now 28 signed up including the trainees — are not bored at home.

His nine years in official capacity at Tranmere shaped his attitude to management. In 1987, while player-coach, he succeeded Frank Worthington as caretaker-manager, but declined to accept the job on a full-time basis because the board would not extend his contract. Later, he was promoted to assist King who remains a huge influence, but was dismissed last year after what he describes as "one dodgy season".

"It was a bitter pill to

swallow and I was unemployed for eight months," Moore said. "That is why my attitude now is to enjoy every minute at Rotherham. The only thing I know for certain is that one day I will be sacked. I have to savour games like Sunderland."

Despite a career spread over 18 years, Moore has never gone beyond the fourth round of the FA Cup — and that, at Charlton, when his side came in at the third. He acknowledges that the prospect of overcoming Sunderland is less than even, but recalls an American experience to show how reputations are often better ignored.

Invited to spend three months with Chicago Sting in the North American Soccer League, he made his debut against New York Cosmos in front of 10,000 people in Giant Stadium. "In those days, Tranmere got crowds of about 1,500, it was a big, big game for me. They had Pele and Beckenbauer, but I scored the winning goal. I don't usually say this because it ruins a good story, but Pele was well past his best, hardly in it. On one particular day, anything can happen."

Not for nothing has Dennis Wise been an ever-present under Gullit's changing cast of players at Stamford Bridge this season and it was his absence through suspension that showed. The lack of real bite in midfield, with space continually closed down by Southampton, was evident.

Palmer paid tribute to Chelsea's qualities as an attacking force: "Chelsea are a super team and if you don't deny them space they'll pass the ball around and murder you," he said. "I wouldn't say that we had more commitment, because they worked hard all game and did knock it around. So I'm not saying they didn't fight. That would be a lie. They passed it well and perhaps didn't have the luck."

"It's not just Chelsea that you have to do exactly the same against [Manchester] United, Liverpool and Arsenal. You have to close them down, especially somebody like Zola. But you have to do that with Steve McManaman, David Beckham and Paul Scholes as well. You have to earmark them for special treatment. Zola's one of them."

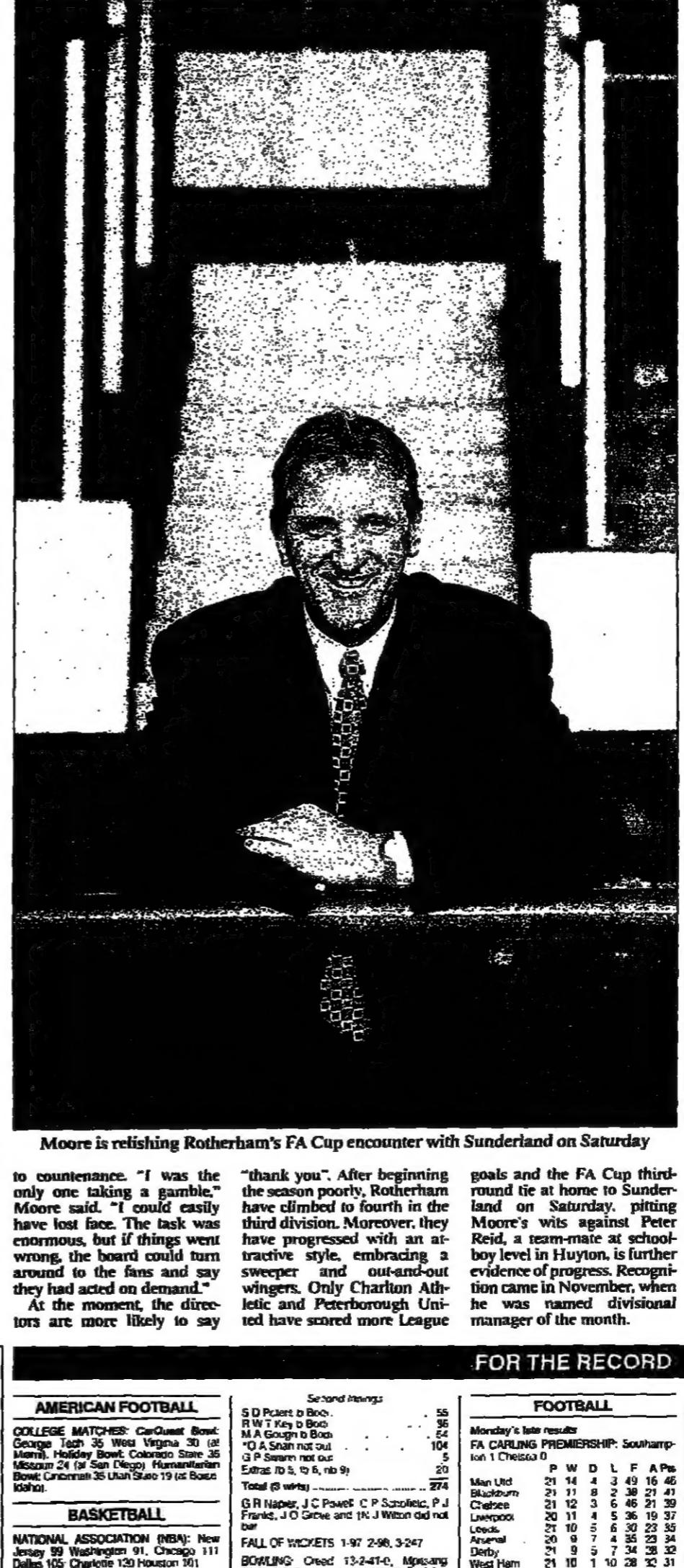
David Jones, the Southampton manager, was generous in his praise of Palmer's contribution, both against Chelsea and throughout the season. "Carlton's been brilliant since he came to the club," he said.

"The lad is a winner. He leads by example and you can't say any more of him. I know that I only got him at the price I did (£1 million) because of the problems at Leeds."

Moore is relishing Rotherham's FA Cup encounter with Sunderland on Saturday

Moore makes the most of happy return

Richard Hobson meets a manager enjoying the challenges at a club where he was once idolised as a player



Qualities of Palmer crucial to victory

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SOUTHAMPTON were supposed to be the undercard to Chelsea's flowing football. The Dell the stage upon which Ruud Gullit's team could display their FA Carling Premiership credentials, but it was Southampton, commitment personified, who came away with a richly-deserved 1-0 victory on Monday night.

Carlton Palmer, once part of the England midfield, has benefited immensely from his move to Southampton this season. His performance against Chelsea was instrumental in the home team's victory, his comments yesterday in reviewing the match to the point: "We wanted it more than you," he said.

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Not including last night's

TABLE TENNIS

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Mita Estudiantes 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-1; 2nd division: 1. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 2. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 3. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 4. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 5. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 6. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 7. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 8. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 9. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 10. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 11. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 12. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 13. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 14. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 15. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 16. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 17. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 18. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 19. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 20. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 21. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 22. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 23. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 24. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 25. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0; 26. North 1st leg 3-0, 2nd leg 3-0;

Selectors swiftly revert to fartism

I have thought long and hard about the reasons for demotion of Adam Hollioake from the position of captain of the England one-day cricket team and I think I have cracked it. It is because the selectors are old farts.

The term, a useful one in all walks of life, acquired a certain dubious respectability — at any rate, a publishability — after Will Carling's throwaway description of the men at the top of his own sport of rugby union: the famous 57 old farts.

The Hollioake decision was made by three selectors. The first is David Graveney, whom I am inclined to let off. The other two are Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch. Mr Gooch, Mr Gatting, I accuse. You — former rebels, both former new brooms, men formerly dedicated to changing the face of English cricket — are a pair of old farts.

It doesn't take long, does it? Gooch stopped playing last summer. Gatting is still playing, but scratch a man dressed in a little brief authority and you lay bare the fart beneath.

At the last World Cup, England showed that they were probably the worst one-day international side in the world and certainly the least up-to-date. My old friend, Matthew Engel, picking his words with the precision that befits the editor of *Wisden*, said that the England team was like "a bad-tempered grandmother attending a teenage rave".

The end-of-term report said: "Must do better." Which involves taking one-day cricket with the seriousness of purpose that is appropriate to international sport. Which means changing the way of thinking.

And, glory be, England actually did it. After years of turning down invitations to play in "spurious" one-day tournaments in Sharjah, England accepted one. They sent out a team of one-day specialists under a groovy young captain who revels in that form of the game.

Hollioake did all that was required and more. For a moment, it seemed like the dawning of the age of post-fartism. The team went out full

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

of bounce and came back veritable Tiggers. It would be daft to get over-excited about all this, but a team can do no more than win every match. It was an uncharacteristically bold experiment, taken in the absence of Michael Atherton, who had declared himself unavailable, and it worked.

One gets used to unusual behaviour from all sporting administrators, England cricket selectors in particular, but to have the courage to try an experiment, to have the good fortune to see it work and then to chuck it out and go

back to the old way — this flies in the face of logic. How many times have Gooch and Gatting bewailed selectorial lunacy? Yet now they are perpetrating the same behaviour, consistent to nothing but the ancient precepts of fartism.

Hollioake in the role of England one-day captain was shown, *prima facie*, to be a good thing. So, after going to trouble and expense of finding this out, they have relegated him to vice-captain. There are good leaders and good No 2s and rarely are they the same person. Message to all cricketers: do everything we ask and more, and you'll surely be demoted.

Why have they done this? Because separate captains for one-day cricket and for Test cricket is simply not done. It is not so much that it undermines the captain as the fact that it undermines the notion of captaincy. Shakespeare's plays ring with the respect for the mystical state of kingship. A king is a man who is, indeed, in office by divine right and to dethrone him is a kind of blasphemy. Gooch and Gatting, I suspect, are selected as selectors because they were in touch: younger than is traditional for the job and, indeed, actually playing. They brought vibrant new thinking to the job too, with the Hollioake experiment. But they lost their nerve. It seemed that the winds of change were blowing, but no. Fartism is dead: long live fartism.

former England captains, believe that the same thing is true of captaincy.

This is pure fartism. When they were hot and rebellious young things, their respect for authority was less marked. Gatting caused a diplomatic incident and then a sleazy scandal. Both men betrayed world cricket, and much else besides, by taking part in rebel tours to South Africa.

Both have been wonderful cricketers, but that is not in the area of dispute. Both are men of admirable qualities, but

sport, as always, has revealed their flaws and their virtues together. The point is not so much their personal failings as the speed with which Young Turks become old farts.

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STEFANO BELLANDINI



No prizes for finishing second in Bormio, but Franz, runner-up in six downhills, has his eye on a place in the Austria team for the Olympic Games

Schifferer leads the Austrian charge

ANDREAS SCHIFFERER won his second men's downhill of the season in Bormio, Italy, yesterday and deposed Hermann Maier, his fellow Austrian and the overall World Cup leader, at the top of the standing standings.

Schifferer, the winner at Beaver Creek in the United States this month and second in a downhill in Bormio on Monday, covered the icy Stelvio piste in 2min 1.4sec. The fifth to start, he made errors on the upper part of the

piste, but skied an aggressive second half. He then watched skier after skier eclipse his halfway split time before fading nearer the finish.

"I spent a long time suffering at the bottom of the mountain because I made a bit of a mess of the first part of the race," he said. "I was convinced Maier would beat me, but it seems he had some problems too. I was more relaxed today than yesterday

and that, along with a bit of luck, made the difference. It's a great way to finish the year." Werner Franz, also of Austria, was second in 2min 1.62sec. He has now finished second in six World Cup downhills.

The 25-year-old beat Maier, who has yet to win one.

"That doesn't bother me much as at the moment," he said. "Consistency's the important thing. We're all looking for places in the Olympic team." Lasse Kjus, of Norway, was third in 2min 2.0sec.

Maier, the revelation of the Alpine World Cup this season, missed out on the podium for only the second time in nine consecutive giant slalom, super-giant slalom and downhill races.

The 25-year-old beat Schifferer to claim his first World Cup downhill victory on Monday, finished fourth in 2min 2.19sec. "I'm just happy to have survived today," he

said. "I'm going to go home for New Year, host a big party and hope 1998 starts as well as 1997 has ended."

Maier still heads the overall World Cup standings with 639 points. Schifferer moves up to third on 401 points.

Three other Austrians — Hannes Trinkl, Stefan Eberharter and Roland Assinger — also finished in the top ten, but Josef and Fritz Strobl (no relation) failed to finish.

Bruno Kernen, of Switzerland, showed a glimmer of the form that took him to the world championship downhill title a year ago, finishing sixth in 2min 2.52sec. "It's good to be back at last," he said. "I've had a difficult season so far."

Kristian Ghedina, of Italy, winner of the first race of the season at Beaver Creek, disappointed thousands of home supporters who lined the piste in brilliant sunshine, by skiing a wayward 2min 3.59sec to finish sixteenth.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

SENECHAL

In a major domo, an official in the household of a sovereign or great noble to whom the administration of justice and total control of domestic arrangements were entrusted. In other words, a grand housekeeper (male, of course) for nob's.

SEIPNER

In Old Norse mythology, the horse of Odin, having (the horse, not Odin) eight legs. The horse was red-hot for speed. He was similarly successful at stud. When Sigurd drove some horses into the river, one only swam across, throwing up his head and neighing for victory. He was Grani by Seipner.

SELVY

(a) A kind of duster or slippery shammie-leather cloth for polishing. *Cycling*, 1898: "Plating is best cleaned of rust by hand rubbing with paraffin and polished with chamois leather or selvyn."

LAGAPOUS

(b) Footlike, looking like a foot. From the Greek. The word is used to describe certain plants having rhizomes resembling a lamb's foot.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qb4! Qd5 (1. ... Qxb4; 2. Re8+ mates); 2. Qxb7! with the same idea.

DETAILS

RESULTS: 1. A Scherer (Austria) 2:14sec; 2. W Franz (Austria) 2:01.62; 3. L Kernen (Switzerland) 2:12.4; 4. H Maier (Austria) 2:02.52; 5. A Schifferer (Austria) 2:02.52; 6. R Assinger (Austria) 2:02.59; 7. S Eberharter (Austria) 2:02.59; 8. B Strobl (Austria) 2:02.61; 9. J Strobl (Austria) 2:02.61; 10. W Kerner (Switzerland) 2:02.61; 11. D Zill (Austria) 2:03.09; 12. C Greber (Austria) 2:03.18; 13. L Sauder (Cam) 2:03.22; 14. M Runggader (Cam) 2:03.47; 15. M Maier (Austria) 2:03.47; 16. S Trinkl (Austria) 2:03.52; 17. R Assinger (Austria) 2:03.52; 18. S Eberharter (Austria) 2:03.52; 19. R Strobl (Austria) 2:03.52; 20. C Greber (Austria) 2:03.52; 21. S Schifferer (Austria) 2:03.52; 22. W Kernen (Switzerland) 2:03.52; 23. L Kernen (Switzerland) 2:03.52; 24. H Maier (Austria) 2:03.52; 25. A Schifferer (Austria) 2:03.52; 26. W Kerner (Switzerland) 2:03.52; 27. R Assinger (Austria) 2:03.52; 28. S Eberharter (Austria) 2:03.52; 29. R Strobl (Austria) 2:03.52; 30. C Greber (Austria) 2:03.52; 31. L Sauder (Cam) 2:03.52; 32. M Runggader (Cam) 2:03.52; 33. M Maier (Austria) 2:03.52; 34. S Trinkl (Austria) 2:03.52; 35. R Assinger (Austria) 2:03.52; 36. S Eberharter (Austria) 2:03.52; 37. R Strobl (Austria) 2:03.52; 38. C Greber (Austria) 2:03.52; 39. W Kerner (Switzerland) 2:03.52; 40. H Maier (Austria) 2:03.52; 41. A Schifferer (Austria) 2:03.52; 42. W Kerner (Switzerland) 2:03.52; 43. R Assinger (Austria) 2:03.52; 44. S Eberharter (Austria) 2:03.52; 45. R Strobl (Austria) 2:03.52; 46. C Greber (Austria) 2:03.52; 47. W Kerner (Switzerland) 2:03.52; 48. H Maier (Austria) 2:03.52; 49. A Schifferer (Austria) 2:03.52; 50. L Sauder (Cam) 2:03.52; 51. M Runggader (Cam) 2:03.52; 52. M Maier (Austria) 2:03.52; 53. S Trinkl (Austria) 2:03.52; 54. R Assinger (Austria) 2:03.52; 55. S Eberharter (Austria) 2:03.52; 56. R Strobl (Austria) 2:03.52; 57. C Greber (Austria) 2:03.52; 58. W Kerner (Switzerland) 2:03.52; 59. H Maier (Austria) 2:03.52; 60. 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The authentic voice of a grieving people

The good thing, perhaps the only good thing, that can be said about the unprecedented grief that followed the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, is that it worked. We felt sad, we grieved and eventually we felt better again. Which is why, up until now, I have felt no compunction whatsoever in avoiding the various tribute programmes that the nation's broadcasters have prepared for the year end. For the time being I am tributed out.

But I had a hunch that *Modern Times: The Shrine* (BBC2) might be different and it was. No familiar biographical details, no overused library footage — just a succession of television encounters with some of the millions of people who poured into Kensington Gardens after her death and, in many cases, found it terribly difficult to go home again.

The greatest achievement of Richard Alwyn's fine reportage

was that it halted in its tracks the rewriting of history currently taking place over the nation's allegedly more sophisticated dinner tables. Mass hysteria, they sneer, not genuine grief: "Of course, I went along to see what all the fuss was about" conveniently forgetting how difficult it was to hold back the tears, or the flowers they took along because somehow that seemed right.

The first ten minutes was an almost shocking reminder of how powerful the emotional response to the Princess's death was. The tears may have dried by now but that rather odd sound you heard at about quarter past nine last night was the nation (or at least that part of it which watches BBC2) having a good sniff.

Having sensibly dispensed with a narrator, it was left to those interviewed to try to articulate what they and everyone else was feeling. A young woman seemed to

get closest with: "It's not just a piece of history, it's a piece of you." But if that wasn't to your taste, there were plenty of others.

The film's main flaw, in fact, was that there were too many others. It could have ended, rather beautifully, after ten minutes, with a single white rose that had been tossed into the path of the funeral cortège that lay undisturbed until a road-sweeper swept it into his trolley. In reality it ended a full 65 minutes later, with an echo of that first floral image as heaps of decaying flowers were fed into a shredder on their way to becoming compost.

For me the film was a good 20 minutes too long, despite the undeniable beauty of some of the photography and some powerful reminders of things only recently past (such as Earl Spencer's funeral address) to already consigned to history. Long before



Matthew Bond

we got to the compost heap and the credits, I felt as if I had been through the entire grieving process again. I had felt sad, I reflected and now... I felt better again. It was time for something else.

Such as the other moment of history this year, the general election and, more specifically, the role of Martin Bell, television reporter-turned-politician, therein. That was the inspiration for

another of Guy Jenkins's clever little jeu-de-current affairs, *Mr White Goes to Westminster* (Channel 4). In the place of Bell we had Ben White (Bill Paterson), an intrepid foreign correspondent who didn't work for the BBC but did have a glamorous daughter (Josephine Butler). And in place of the Hamiltons we had the Madisons (Robert Duncan and Celia Imrie). So far, so familiar territory.

But it was when we got to the Tatton result (played here by Dorset East) after only 11 minutes that I realised that Jenkins must have something else up his sleeve. *Turned Out to Be My Sister*. The incomparable Samantha Bond played Helen Nash, an ambitious new Labour MP whose one concession to the socialists had once inspired her to wear red knickers under her Armani suits. More importantly, she also turned out to be an old flame of White's, a fact which the tabloids took much

pleasure in revealing after White had launched a Bill to give those misrepresented by the press a statutory right of redress (equal space in the newspaper).

Meanwhile, White and Nash were taking much pleasure in ill-advisedly rekindling the flame, which is always an awkward moment for a brother but I can see it helped the plot along.

Having scored as many comic hits against the Madison/Hamiltons as his lawyers would allow, Jenkins turned his pen against new Labour and the newspapers. Had the banner headlines about their original affair harmed her chances of becoming a junior minister? asked a concerned White. Mandelson says no," she replied. "So yes, then." Very enjoyable.

Much less enjoyable was *King Lear* (ITV), a comedy drama (or so it was billed) that can't possibly

have been what ITV was expecting. What they wanted, surely, was a knockout comedy about two rival northerners and their prize leeks. What William Ivory, the writer, delivered was something so black that it was nigh on impossible to see the comedy at all. When the hero is "fat, 50 and on the scrapheap" and the most sympathetic character turns out to be a drug dealer, you know you're in trouble.

The specific trouble is that we've seen this bleak, working man (or in this case non-working man) stuff too many times before. Ivory combined it with comedy quite brilliantly in the first series of *Common as Muck*, much less successfully in the second series and hardly at all in this — despite the enthusiastic support of *Muck* veteran Tim Healy as Cromer. Ivory's new year resolution should be to take a deep breath... and try something new.

BBC1

7.00am News (7) (225543) 7.10 Paddington (225521) 7.15 Teletubbies (224226) 7.40 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (225812) 8.05 Casper (225718) 8.30 Journey Quest (597036) 8.55 Newmarket (7) (707568) 9.30 Sweet Valley High (112582) 9.50 Teletubbies (970574) 10.20 News (7) (658557)

10.30 The Nutcracker Prince (1990) An animated version of the children's Christmas favourite. Directed by Paul Schell (T) (155604)

11.40 Cartoon (422203)

12.00 Keeping Up Appearances Christmas special (7) (17059)

12.30pm Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (7) (31851)

1.00 News (7) and weather (50941528)

1.15 Neighbours (7) (7308306)

1.35 Cartoon (7812073)

1.45 Bugey Malone (1976) British director Alan Parker's steampunk spoof of 1940s gangster movies, featuring a huge cast composed entirely of children including Joelle Foote (T) (700505)

3.15 Back to the Future, Part III (1990) Sci-fi comedy in which Michael J. Fox replaces his role as time-travelling teenager Marty McFly, this time transported back to the days of the Wild West. Directed by Robert Zemeckis (T) (5958570)

5.05 Neighbours (7) (7384238)

5.30 News (7) and weather (138967)

5.45 Regional News (492577)

6.00 K-9 (1985) Fast-moving comedy, with James Baulch as an obsessive hardboiled cop who is assigned a new partner, an alien. Directed by Rod Daniel (T) (43983233)

7.35 The Wolf: A Wildlife Special A close-up look at wolves in the wild in northern Canada and Transylvania (T) (5474783)

8.25 News (7) and weather (210141)

8.45 The National Lottery Draw (375702)

9.00 Cold Enough for Snow (1990) Tragi-comedy sequel to *Eskimo Day*, starring Maureen Lipman, David Ross and Anna Carteret (T) (17870)

10.29 National Lottery Update (307069)

10.30 The Unique Dave Allen (1990) Dave Allen presents some of his most outrageously funny sketches and stand-up routines about Christmas festivities (T) (21988)

11.00 The End of the Year Show with Angus Deayton with celebrity guests and live music (7) (658342)

12.05pm Happy New Year The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, reflects on the year gone by and looks forward to 1998 (7671212)

12.10 Hogmanay Live Celidh held in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle introduced by Carol Smillie and Dougie Vipond (6978555)

1.00 Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) Comedy, with the usual *Carry On* crew, about an over-eager union leader at a laundry factory. Directed by Gerald Thomas (T) (6588265)

2.25 Weather (919556)

2.30 BBC News 24

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BBC2

6.55am Going Hollywood (2185702) 8.10 Great Mysteries and Myths of the 20th Century: Loch Ness (5633870) 8.35 Vivacious Lady (1983) Nightclub singer Ginger Rogers marries professor of film boozey James Stewart. Directed by George Stevens (334122)

10.05 The Great Romances of the 20th Century: Tycoon William Randolph Hearst and actress Marion Davies (7484677)

10.30 The Shop Around the Corner (1940) **FILM** James Stewart stars with Margaret Sullivan. A letter-writing shop assistant begins a romantic correspondence with a mysterious lonely heart pen-pal — little realising she is actually the colleague with whom he constantly bickers at work. Directed by Ernst Lubitsch (5715051)

12.05pm Close-Up on James Stewart (6894702)

12.15 BBC Rally Report Highlights (116054)

12.45 Cambridge Folk Festival (3/3) (8225228)

1.25 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: The Magical Maze (4/5) (2800306)

2.25 The Travel Show (7) (7284257)

3.10 Gareth Brooks Live in Central Park (2008431)

4.20 Everything to Play For Last in series (9230848)

4.50 The World in 1998 Peter Snow looks ahead to technological advances (1804870)

5.50 Close-Up on James Stewart Richard Attenborough selects his favourite James Stewart performance (505219)

6.00 Bend of the River (1952) Western, starring James Stewart, Arthur Kennedy and Rock Hudson. Directed by Anthony Mann (56219)

7.30 Decisive Moments: Images from the News, 1997. Photos of the year's major events, including the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, and Labour's election victory (T) (84656)

8.30 Flatworld Animated comedy by Oscar-winning British director Daniel Greville (T) (2141)

9.00 Shooting Stars 1996 Christmas show (T) (37827)

9.35 The Fast Show 1996 Christmas show (T) (124899)

10.20 Stilettos Street (741577)

10.30 Official Daniel (1993) Sci-fi drama, with Parker Stevenson, Erin Gray and Chad **FILM** Everett. Directed by Brian Trenchard-Smith (37798)

Host Jools Holland (12.00)

12.00 Jools's Fifth Annual Hootenanny with Jools Holland's Rhythm and Blues Orchestra, B.B. King, Gabriele, Jewel, Blur, Fun Lovin' Criminals (T) (6499505)

1.15pm Gloucester Highlights (2504642)

2.30 Weather (9290062)

SKY BOX OFFICE

She's a pre-mature movie channel, to be fair. It helped 2000 800k users. Each film costs £2.99 per viewing.

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 20) **Sheets** (1998)

SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Dead Presidents** (1995)

SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 50) **Jack Palance** (1995)

SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 59) **The Crown of Aragorn** (1995)

SKY BOX OFFICE 5 (Transponder 1) **Ladyhawke** (1985)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

0.00pm The Bible (1966) 7.30 The Ten Commandments (1956) 7.45 The Last Days of Our Lives (1985) 7.50 Open Your Eyes (1997) 8.00 The English Patient (1996) 8.15 The Bridges of Madison County (1995) 8.30 Sudden Impact (1983) 8.50 Looking for Trouble (1989) 9.00 The Tenant in the Cupboard (1988) 9.30 The English Patient (1996) 9.45 The Bridges of Madison County (1995) 10.00 Twins (1988) 10.30 The English Patient (1996) 10.45 The Bridges of Madison County (1995) 11.00 Fall From Grace (1985) 11.30 The English Patient (1996) 12.00 The Bridges of Madison County (1995) 12.30pm Sports Centre (2000) 2.00 Close

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Sunday and the Banzai (1997) (5238959) 6.00 Bloodhounds of Broadway (1989) 8.00 The Rocky Horror Show (1975) (5014541) 8.30 Come to the Ball (1997) (5014542) 11.20 Predator (1987) (5149474) 1.20pm Come to the Ball (1987) (5149474) 1.20pm 3.30 I Met a Witch (1962) (5021702)

TNT

8.00pm A Space Odyssey (1968) (5411698) 11.30 The Star (1997) (5119577)

1.45pm Viva! Las Vegas (1994) (2008979) 3.15 A Night at the Opera (1995) (5139573) 5.00 Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00pm Sports Centre (92764) 7.30 Wembley (54122) 8.30 Sports Centre (22223)

9.00 Racing (5610) 9.30 Athletics (40412)

10.00 Formula 1 (50128) 10.30 Formula 1 (50129)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm Athletics (5277866) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

9.00 Formula 1 (50129)

SKY SPORTS 3

7.00pm Athletics (5277866) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

9.00 Formula 1 (50129)

SKY SPORTS 4

7.00pm Athletics (5277866) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

SKY SPORTS 5

7.00pm Athletics (5277866) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00pm The Box (560412) 7.00 Neighbours (5605703) 7.30 Quack Attack (5605704)

SKY SPORTS 6

7.00pm Weather (5101004) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

SKY SPORTS 7

7.00pm Weather (5101004) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

SKY SPORTS 8

7.00pm Weather (5101004) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

SKY SPORTS 9

7.00pm Weather (5101004) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

SKY SPORTS 10

7.00pm Weather (5101004) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

SKY SPORTS 11

7.00pm Weather (5101004) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

SKY SPORTS 12

7.00pm Weather (5101004) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

SKY SPORTS 13

7.00pm Weather (5101004) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

SKY SPORTS 14

7.00pm Weather (5101004) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

SKY SPORTS 15

7.00pm Weather (5101004) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

SKY SPORTS 16

7.00pm Weather (5101004) 7.30 Sports Centre (5264529) 8.00 Racing - News (5610) 8.30 Formula 1 (50128)

